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More Gains in Belgium; Russians Also Win

West and East Both Furnish Good News of Allies' Success — Austrians Admit Being Forced to Retreat

Paris, Dec. 30.—The official announcement by the French war department this afternoon reads as follows: "In Belgium we have won a little territory in the region of Niepoort, opposite Polders, and to the north of Lombardetide. The enemy subjected St. Georges to a violent bombardment. This is the position we are putting in a state of defence. "We have captured a German point of support located to the southeast of Zonnobek, on the road between Becdier and Paschendale. "From the Lys to the Obbe, there is nothing to report. "In the valley of the Aisne and in Champagne the enemy has manifested another burst of activity, which has taken the form particularly of a violent artillery fire, to which our heavy artillery has replied effectively. "In the Argonne we have made slight progress in the region of Four De Paris. "Between the Argonne and the Moselle there has been manoeuvring along all the front, but particularly severe along the heights of the Meuse. "In the Vosges the enemy delivered an attack against our positions at La Tete De Fauz. This was repulsed. "In upper Alsace we are consolidating our positions. Our heavy artillery reduced to silence the German howitzers which were bombarding Upper Aspach." London, Dec. 30.—The correspondent of the Daily News at Petrograd telegraphs: "The destruction of the enemy's combination in the southern campaign is enabling the Russians to regain the initiative and inflict on the German-Austrian line the break which was projected against themselves. "This has been achieved near the confluence of the Nida and the Vistula, just inside the southern border of Poland, in Galicia. "All the Austrian forces before this line have been so scattered that the Hungarians alone have to face Russia's southern army. Columns moving eastward Beskies into Hungary, often are entirely without artillery, which they have lost or abandoned in the hurried retreat. "The main German forces in Central Poland are awaiting a new scheme of operations. They have evacuated Opoczno and remain comparatively passive from exhaustion. To the north of the Bzura, Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is expected to try some other shock attack. The new line of defence works being built is equipped with heavy artillery and deep infantry trenches on the hillsides. This position is six miles behind the previous outer defences." AUSTRIA ADMITS IT Vienna, Dec. 30.—An official communication given out by the staff headquarters admits a retreat by the Austrians in Galicia. The statement follows: "The old Russian army, which a week ago commenced an offensive attack against those of our forces which had crossed the Carpathians, has been reinforced with supplementary troops and fresh divisions in such a manner that it was necessary to withdraw our troops along the entire eastern front and to the plain of Gorlic (just north of the Carpathians, and to the east of Nowy Sade). The situation in the north has not been influenced thereby. "In the Balkan theatre, the Montenegrins showed great but unsuccessful activity. A weak attack at Travnik, in Herzegovina, near the border, was repulsed easily. The Montenegrin artillery had no effect on the strong fortresses of Krivovojac."

PLANS FOR NEW YEAR'S TREAT FOR SOLDIERS

The city commissioners expect to have as their guests on New Year's day at least 1,000 soldiers. The exact number is not known, as this will depend on the number who will be on furlough this week. The commissioners are planning an appetizing supper for the men to be served in the armory and this will be followed by an entertainment. Mrs. Powell, on behalf of the committee of the Women's Canadian Club, which will look after the arrangements on Christmas day, notified Mayor Frink this morning of their willingness to do anything in their power to assist, and His Worship would be glad to have the assistance of other helpers. For the entertainment which will follow the mayor is prepared to hear from any who are willing to take part, not necessarily without remuneration. As so many of the men were away on Christmas day this is expected to be even a bigger affair than the excellent effort of the ladies last week.

NOT SURE YET ABOUT NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Montreal, Dec. 30.—Nobody knows yet whether there is to be the usual New Year's eve celebration here in the hotels and restaurants. The Dominion Alliance and anti-alcoholic league have asked, in an open letter, that the places of public entertainment refrain from the usual gaieties, and the matter has been put up to Chief of Police Campeau.

BATTLE IN MEXICO

Veracruz, Dec. 30.—Four thousand followers of General Carranza yesterday, according to official reports, defeated 4,000 men under General Zapata at Tepeca.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service. Synopsis—The depression mentioned yesterday is now centred in the St. Lawrence Valley, while pressure is highest in the western states. Snow and rain have fallen over Ontario and the maritime provinces and snow in Quebec. Colder, With Snow. Maritime—Strong winds, and moderate gales, southwest to west, turning colder tonight with light local snow.

ONE BOY OF TWO WHO ESCAPED SOON IS IN HOME AGAIN

Pearl Hampton and Alfred Hanson escaped from the Boys' Industrial Home yesterday. They were not free many hours when the residence of J. M. Roche, Lancaster Heights, was ransacked and a diamond ring and a flash light taken. Young Hampton is back in the industrial home having been turned over to the police by his mother. The other boy has not as yet been captured.

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES

Curling, Nfld., Dec. 30.—The comparatively mild weather has been favorable to the herring fisheries of the west coast and already about ten million pounds have been shipped from Bay of Islands. Some American vessels are still in the bay awaiting cargoes. Drift ice has forced half a dozen American schooners to leave Bonne Bay for Bay of Islands. At Bonne Bay, there is 1,120,000 pounds of cod awaiting shipment.

DAY OF INTERCESSION

Toronto, Dec. 30.—Archdeacon Coady, rector of St. Paul's Anglican church, Toronto, proposes that all the churches in Canada should associate the day of intercession appointed by the government for next Sunday with a practical service to the starving Belgians, in the shape of contributions of bags or barrels of flour.

TWO PRESENTATIONS

A very interesting affair took place on Christmas day at the home of James Bond, Moore street, when, as usual, the family gathered to celebrate the day. After all had partaken of a good Christmas supper, games and singing were enjoyed, and then two of the party, Sergt-Major Alfred Carross and Sergt. James Bond, Jr., of the C. A. S. C. No. 15, were called into the parlor by Mr. Bond who, after a few words, presented to each a handsome wrist watch, a gift from the family. Both replied in a feeling manner, and after three rousing cheers, the gathering broke up about midnight.

FUR COAT TAKEN OFF LINE

To leave a valuable fur coat hanging on her clothes line and soon after to return and find that it had been taken was the experience of Mrs. Harry Carr, of Harrison street, yesterday. She hung the coat out to air and then went to town to do some shopping. Upon her return she went to take the coat into the house but to her consternation found that it had disappeared. A search was made, but without result as there was no trace of the missing garment.

V. O. NURSES

C. W. Hallamore, secretary-treasurer of the Victorian Order of Nurses, acknowledges the following donations to the Victorian Order of Nurses—Mrs. J. H. Thomson, \$10; Mrs. Joseph Finley, \$5; Mrs. Geo. F. Smith, \$5; Senator Daniel, \$5; Mrs. M. M. Woodman, \$10.

SEAMER F HERE WITH ARMY SUPPLIES HAS GONE ASHORE NEAR YARMOUTH

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 30.—Steamer Navarra, 2867 tons, from St. John for the United Kingdom with oats and army supplies, is ashore on Holmes Island, twenty miles from Yarmouth. She struck during a fog last night. Tugs have left for the scene. The steamer Navarra, Captain Milliken, was chartered by the British Admiralty for a supply ship. A telegram received by J. P. Knight & Co., this morning was to the effect that the steamer was aground at Tusket Island, N. S. and was filling with water. She is loaded with hay, oats and feed. She left this port yesterday morning enroute to France. Full particulars regarding the disaster have not as yet been received.

GREAT WIND STORM STOPPED FIGHTING

Soldiers Blown About Like Ninepins and Yser Floods Turned to Raging Seas—Eighty Miles an Hour at Dover London, Dec. 30.—The Daily News correspondent in Northern France tells of the wildest gale of the winter, raging over the coast on Monday night after a day of drenching rain. The warships, destroyers, submarines and monitors ceased operations long before sundown. The storm not only paralyzed the fighting at sea, but made a sheer mockery of the work on land. The tempest along the dunes with sand and shingles flying almost with the fierceness of bursting shrapnel, beat the herring out of the sky and drove the wind against the attempt to stand up against it. One whole regiment returning, fit and eager, to the front, was struck broadside on its coastward march, the men actually being blown about and toppled over like ninepins. A heavy automobile and transport wagons were blown over, and horses, as well as men, refused to face the gale. The Yser floods were raging fast, and many German soldiers were reported drowned during the night in an attempt to bring off a hazardous coup. The abnormal gale and blizzard on Monday night in London and the southern counties, lives were lost at Clapham, Gillingham, Sheerness, Margate and South End. Shipping on the southern coast appears to have suffered extensively. At Dover, where the wind blew eighty miles an hour, a big passenger steamship was blown out of the harbor.

GETTING GERMANS OUT OF CANADA BY THE "UNDERGROUND" ROUTE

New York, Dec. 30.—A despatch from Cleveland to the Tribune says: "An underground railroad," similar to the one in operation during the Civil War, has been established between the United States and Canada, and is rescuing Germans from Canada. "Herman Wentz, a German, of Montreal, describes his escape from Canada to Buffalo, in a truck. "The sheriff at Montreal summoned me," he said, "but I managed to evade the writ for a day and then got to Niagara Falls. I tried to get across to the American side, until I met a French-Canadian, who offered to do the job for \$20. I paid him, and he put me in a truck which was dipped across the river to a warehouse in Buffalo. Three hours later I was freed." Wentz declares that a regular system has been established.

THE GOVERNMENT SPENT NEARLY \$1,500,000 HIS BOAT AFIRE

Chas. Cobham's Foresight and Coolness Pull Him Out of Danger With his gasoline boat afire in the middle of the outer harbor in the darkness of early morning, Charles Cobham had an experience today from which he escaped uninjured only through his own foresight and carelessness. Cobham is boatman with the Norton Griffiths Company, and was returning from one of his dredges in Courtenay Bay to Reed's Point about six o'clock this morning. In the darkness his craft collided with a barrel buoy and stove in two of its plates, fortunately above the water line. The shock upset his lighted lantern and immediately the cabin woodwork was in flames. With the caution which distinguishes those familiar with gasoline tanks, Mr. Cobham has always been careful to provide safeguards in case of accident, and his last week he had rigged up a safety arrangement for his gasoline tanks. With this advantage he was able to remove the tanks to a place of safety in the stern of the boat and then set to work to extinguish the fire. He beat out the flames with his coat and a few buckets of water completed the job. When the danger had passed he was able to reach the shore, beaching the boat at the foot of Duke street. Mr. Cobham received some blisters around his hands. With a little rest, his boat will be as good as ever.

CONFERENCE IN FREDERICTON OVER SCHOOL MATTERS

Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 30.—The annual conference among the chief superintendents of the Normal school and the school inspectors is being held today. The topics include vocational training, the supply of teachers, patriotism, moral training and teachers' salaries. Gordon Jonah, of Youngstown, Alberta, son of W. H. Jonah of this city, and Miss Mildred McKinnon were married this afternoon by Rev. J. E. Wilson. They will leave this evening for the west. Recruiting for the 24th Field Battery is still going on, but it is expected that it will be up to strength next week. David Gentleman, of St. John's, and the daughter of Cornelius Smith, were married at the bride's home in Marysville yesterday afternoon by Rev. Mr. McEllellan. The names of Councilors Sterling and Harry Smith are mentioned in connection with the wardship.

BLOOD POISONING

His friends will regret to hear that J. B. Powers of the street railway staff has blood-poison in one of his hands. It resulted from a very slight scratch which he sustained a few days ago. He expects, however, to be able to return to work in a few days.

British Cabinet Takes Up American Protest

Sir Edward Grey's Return to London Followed by Government Meeting—Opinions of New York Papers London, Dec. 30.—(1.20 p. m.)—Foreign Secretary Grey returned to London from the country today. His arrival was followed by a meeting of the cabinet at which was discussed the protest of the United States government concerning restrictions on American commerce.

THE FUNDS

C. B. Allan has received from Allan Gundry the sum of \$5, his contribution for December for the Canadian Patriotic Fund. Contributions for the Belgian Relief Fund are acknowledged by Mayor Frink as follows: Concert and basket social, Armstrong Hall, French Lake, Sunbury county, per Miss Viva Wood and Mr. and Mrs. George Armstrong, \$70; Bank Sunday school, Clapman, N. B. concert, per Frank Darrah, \$62; Ford's Mills and Beesville Branch, Women's Institute, per Mrs. James Beers, president, and Mrs. John Call, secretary, \$33; Day school children, district No. 18, Green Mountain, North Lake, York county, per Charles F. Bonn, \$10; H. W. Scholfield, \$25; Proceeds drawing for doll, per Mrs. Wm. Vassie, \$50; James Dickie, Moncton, \$1; Order Railway Telegraphers, Moncton, per Mrs. M. Purdy, Daughters of the Empire, \$15; Star Hall Theatre, Edmundston, per Messrs. Stevens and Lawson, \$10.05; Methodist Young Men's Bible Class, Sackville, per Herbert M. Jones, \$2.75; Young People's Guild, Knox church, Loggieville, per A. L. Babkir, \$20; Miss Anna A. Maxwell, \$5; Duncy Brunstrom, \$5; Rev. W. H. Barracough, \$5.

TELL OF WONDERFUL THINGS OF THIS EARTH OF OURS

About 100 Million Years Old, Says One Scientist at Philadelphia Meeting Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 30.—Arthur P. Coleman of Toronto, was elected president of the Geological Society of America, which is meeting here in connection with the annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. "That the earth is about one hundred million years old, is one of the deductions of Geo. P. Becker of the United States Geological Survey presented in a paper read last night. He said that radical activity was confined to a relatively thin zone in the upper crust of the earth. "The missing link between man and ape-like ancestors has been identified in the pithacanthropus erectus, whose skull, found in Java, showed all the characteristics intermediate between man and ape, according to James H. McGrag, associate professor of Zoology at Columbia University. "Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, demonstrated that huge beds of limestone were the work of microscopic plants known as algae, which, he said, solved a mystery that had long been a source of argument among geologists. "Iron ore deposits in Newfoundland are now known to be the result of volcanic activity, according to Professor Gilbert Van Ingen of Princeton University.

AT EAST ST. JOHN

Last evening at the Edith avenue mission, despite the bad weather conditions, a large number attended a Christmas entertainment given by the Sunday school in aid of the Belgian Fund. The platform was very prettily decorated to represent a winter woodland scene. The programme included songs and recitations, a play entitled "In Story-Book Land," and a solo by Edith Leonard. At the close S. W. Stackhouse distributed to the members of the school candy boxes from the trees surrounding the mission.

BURIED TODAY

The funeral of Mrs. William Leonard took place this morning from her late residence, Clarendon street, to St. Peter's church where solemn requiem high mass was celebrated by her nephew, Rev. Charles McCormick, C. S. R., who was assisted by Rev. Father Hannigan of St. Martin's, as deacon, Rev. J. Jackson, C. S. R., as sub-deacon, and Rev. E. Walsh, C. S. R., as master of ceremonies. The body was then conveyed to the new Catholic cemetery and laid peacefully at rest. Fathers McCormick and Hannigan accompanied the body to its last resting place and officiated at burial services. Relatives attended and many beautiful floral tributes received were evidences of the esteem in which Mrs. Leonard was held. From the residence of H. M. McAlpine, 18 Hosfield street, the funeral of Miss Sarah J. Hutchings took place this afternoon. Burial services were conducted by Rev. W. H. Barracough and interment took place in Fernhill.

PAY-AS-YOU ENTER NEW YEAR'S RULE ON SOME STREET CARS

"Pay-as-you-enter" is to become a reality with the street railway service in St. John on several of the cars, decided by Rev. Father Hannigan of St. Martin's, as deacon, Rev. J. Jackson, C. S. R., as sub-deacon, and Rev. E. Walsh, C. S. R., as master of ceremonies. The body was then conveyed to the new Catholic cemetery and laid peacefully at rest. Fathers McCormick and Hannigan accompanied the body to its last resting place and officiated at burial services. Relatives attended and many beautiful floral tributes received were evidences of the esteem in which Mrs. Leonard was held. From the residence of H. M. McAlpine, 18 Hosfield street, the funeral of Miss Sarah J. Hutchings took place this afternoon. Burial services were conducted by Rev. W. H. Barracough and interment took place in Fernhill.

RUSSIA MAY TAKE THE LAND OWNED BY GERMANS BUT WILL PAY FOR IT

Petrograd, Dec. 30.—The members of the imperial court, while considering the question of restricting German land holding in Russia, formulated a proposal that German property be appraised by the government, and that German-Russian citizens be compelled to surrender their land, which will be paid for by the Russian government in bonds paying four per cent. This measure, if approved by the government, will apply only to land acquired by German settlers since 1910. "The number of Russian citizens of this class is not readily ascertainable since many of German descent and with German names pass as Letts and Estonians in the Baltic provinces, and as Poles in Poland. Therefore the estimates vary from four to eight millions. Indiana Consignees Wheat Supply Delhi, India, via London, Dec. 30.—In view of the abnormal prices of wheat, the Indian government has decided to restrict exports to 100,000 tons of wheat, including four, from December 1 to March 31, 1915. The export will be confined to British possessions, in which a strong demand for the cereal exists.

BANDITS ROB AND MURDER

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 30.—Two masked men who robbed the store of J. B. Munn in Malvern last night, and wounded Munn and his son, killed Marshall Anderson, partner of Cove Creek, and a member of the posse pursuing the robbers. It is also reported that another member of the posse was wounded. Other losses are pursuing the bandits.