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southerly winds, partly cloudy and
mild with occasional showers.

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GERMAN FORCES ARE CHECKED

Russian Armies Check German Invasion of Poland—German Losses Are Tremendous—Russians Advance in Galicia.

Petrograd, Dec. 30.—The Russian view of the military situation in Poland in the light of recent developments is that a definite check has been administered to the Germans. The evacuation of the Germans from the village of Mistrzevica, five miles north of Sochaczew, related officially by the war office, is regarded by military critics here as "ringing down the curtain on the third German advance toward Warsaw."

At a tremendous loss to themselves the Germans had succeeded in establishing a foothold in Mistrzevica, on the east bank of the Bura river, but their persistent sledge hammer attacks during the last three weeks failed to penetrate the Russian line before Warsaw. The Germans steadily threw reinforcements into the town in an endeavor to extend their position along the river. When it became evident that the Austrian advance from the Carpathians had failed the Germans evacuated the village during intervals between Russian attacks. The Austrian operations form an integral part of the general plan of the Germans for their Warsaw campaign.

Heavy artillery is being brought up by the Germans along their center between Skierniewice and the Pilica river. This is regarded here as purely a defensive move, designed to prevent the breaking of the German line by the Russian infantry forces which are operating there under the cover of artillery.

Unofficial reports from the Warsaw front state that in comparison with the heavy artillery duels, the infantry operations are more unimportant.

In Galicia the Russians have taken the important town Gorlice, fifteen miles south of Turov, where the Russians recently halted the West Galician army of the Austrians, preventing it from joining with that of General Boehm-Ermolli, which was advancing from Sank-Lisko. Gorlice is the junction point of several railroads running east, west and south through the Carpathian districts. The pursuit of the retreating Austrians in the Sank-Lisko district has been continued up to Yaslik, which was captured. Yaslik commands the most important highway into Hungary.

Hungarian prisoners arriving at Kiev state that their commanders in addressing the troops previous to the advance, said that the result of the campaign would be the recapture of Lemberg by the Austrians and the capture of Warsaw by the Germans and that subsequent operations as directed by the German general staff would decide the war.

GERMAN PROFESSOR IS NATURALIZED

Toronto, Dec. 30.—The protest against the naturalization of Professor Mueller of the University of Toronto one of the three German professors who were given leave of absence by the university until after the conclusion of the war, was disposed of today by Judge Coatsworth who said in his finding:

"Mr. Mueller responded to the supreme test when after deliberation he answered that he was in favor of the success of the British in the present war. There is not one bit of evidence against Mr. Mueller that would justify me in treating him at all differently from any of the others."

President Falconer of the university expressed satisfaction at the finding.

London, Dec. 30.—The government rate of insurance of cargo against war risks will be reduced, it was announced today from one and one half guineas to one guinea per cent. The new rate takes effect December 31.

The annual Christmas tree entertainment of the Wallace street Methodist Sunday School was held last evening. There was a big attendance and the lengthy program being carried through without a hitch.

PRESENTATION TO MRS. ROBERT NAYLOR

At the close of last night's meeting of Nanaimo Lily Orange Lodge, a social time was held, an interesting part of the entertainment being a presentation by the members to the lodge secretary, Mrs. Robert Naylor, of a China Tea Set, Fruit Set and Oak Tray, together with a well worded and appropriate address.

The presentation was made in commemoration of the twenty-eighth anniversary of Mrs. Naylor's wedding day, the presentation being made by Sisters Jess and Morrison.

The address presented to Mrs. Naylor reads as follows:

Dear Sister Naylor—We, the officers and members of Lily Orange Lodge No. 109 desire to take this means of expressing to you our sincere appreciation of the faithful service you have rendered to the Order during the two years and nine months you have held office as secretary of our lodge. During this time you have not only assisted in the affairs of the lodge in general to be utmost of your ability, but have also guided and aided the various undertakings with which we have from time to time endeavored to assist those in illness and distress. We sincerely hope that the same measure of success will attend your coming term of office as our secretary and wish you all happiness during the coming New Year, especially in view of the twenty-eighth anniversary of your wedding day.

Mrs. Naylor made a fitting reply to the address, and after partaking of refreshments the members spent a pleasant hour in social intercourse.

BRITISH CABINET HELD MEETING

American Note on Interference With Shipping Was Considered But No Decision Arrived at.

London, Dec. 30.—The British Cabinet held a special session this afternoon to consider the American government's note concerning the delay to American shipping caused by the searching of vessels by the British fleet. The note only reached the foreign office today. The subject of the American shipping continues to monopolize interest here.

It is not expected an answer to the note will be drafted for several days, it being pointed out that a document which took weeks to draw up could hardly be digested by the cabinet at one meeting.

Even Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary who returned to town today found the note on his desk, hardly had time to read it, much less consider it before the meeting of his colleagues.

Besides information will have to be sought at the admiralty, which department is responsible for the examination of ship's cargoes, and the permanent officials of the foreign office and the law officers of the crown necessarily will be called upon for diplomatic and legal opinions on the cases submitted by President Wilson.

AIRMEN IN POLAND
Amsterdam, Dec. 30.—The Berliner Tageblatt prints a report that five German airmen made a flight on Monday over Sochaczew, the village on the Bura river where the Russian army is concentrated, and dropped forty bombs. Many wooden buildings were set on fire and a large number of persons killed.

FIFTEEN KILLED; THIRTY WOUNDED

London, Dec. 31.—Four German aeroplanes flew several times over the city of Dunkirk Wednesday dropping bombs as they passed, according to the Dunkirk correspondent of the Daily Mail. Soldiers in the streets fired on the machines, and one seemed to be hit, but all made their escape.

The official return of the casualties shows that fifteen persons were killed and thirty-two wounded. The bombs were filled with shrapnel.

IS IRRESISTIBLY MOVING ON

German and Austrian Forces Pushed Back by Victorious Russian Troops—Many Thousands Captured.

Petrograd, Dec. 30.—The following official statement was issued from general headquarters today:

"Along the whole front of the armies operating on the left bank of the Vistula there has been a lull except in the region of Bolimow, Irwolodz and south of Malogozno, where fierce fighting persists."

"Taking the offensive from Bolimow, the Germans, under a very intense fire from our guns, made an assault on Bourgeois, Borimow and our trenches near Gombin, but our troops by an impetuous counter attack slaughtered their bayonets all of the enemy with the exception of a few who were made prisoners."

"In this engagement we captured German machine guns and inflicted enormous losses on the enemy who brought into action successfully in this region regiments from Diverse army corps."

"Near Nowolodz our troops took possession of German trenches south of Posaire, which they entered after determined fighting."

"South of Malogozno an attack which the enemy delivered after a lengthy cannonading was repulsed by our artillery. Near the village of Bo'himetz the enemy captured our entrenched position, but was dislodged and overthrown by our counter attack."

"In west Galicia our troops are advancing victoriously. East of Zakliczne we stormed several fortified works of the enemy, making prisoners of forty-four officers and 1,500 soldiers and captured eight machine guns."

"Southwest of Dukla our troops dislodged the Austrians from positions which they had occupied."

"They fled in panic. We have realized also an important success south of Lisko near Gorjanovo."

GERMAN SUCCESS IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA

London, Dec. 30.—An official announcement by the government this morning of a fresh invasion of Angola, the Portuguese colony on the west coast of Africa admits temporary success for the Germans. The report says:

"The superior force of the Germans compelled the Portuguese to retire to a strategic position in the interior. The Portuguese dragons, in a violent attack, dispersed the German cavalry, but the Portuguese attempt to surround the enemy's left flank failed."

"The Portuguese loss was one officer killed, three wounded and four missing."

TO PROVIDE FOR SOLDIER'S WIDOWS

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—To provide pensions for widows and orphan dependents of soldiers who lose their lives or are disabled at the front, it is estimated that ten million dollars will be required every year for each fifty thousand men in the field. The initial applications will be made at the coming session of parliament. The exact scale has not yet been determined, but it will be very considerably increased over the rate which heretofore has prevailed. It is being dealt with by a special sub-committee. Expenditures for clothing, equipment, etc., for the expeditionary force so far, have aggregated about twenty millions, and have involved over five thousand separate contracts.

EXCHANGE QUIET

New York, Dec. 30.—Operations on the stock exchange today were marked by the smallest amount of business for a full session since February 1888. Total sales amounted to barely 50,000 shares and this small output was largely limited to about a score of so called favorites, the more obscure issues being almost completely neglected.

BRITISH SOLDIER SENTENCED TO DEATH

Copenhagen, Dec. 30.—A private message from Berlin says that the German supreme war tribunal has sentenced a British prisoner named Longdale to death for assaulting a German officer at the Doherty concentration camp.

Longdale, in the first instance, was sentenced to ten years imprisonment, but the military authorities appealed for a sentence of capital punishment has been successful.

It is asserted that Longdale did not hurt the officer and that a prison guard beat him off.

JURY'S VERDICT IN LAKE SHOOTING CASE

Buffalo, N.Y., Dec. 30.—A citizen's jury at Port Erie, Ont., empaneled to investigate the death of Walter Smith, the Buffalo man killed by Canadian soldiers on Monday, returned its verdict this morning after hearing the testimony of the soldiers and Thomas Delaney, a provincial police officer, and also several eye witnesses.

The verdict was: "We find that the deceased, Walter Smith, met his death on Monday, December 28th, while evading arrest for unlawfully shooting ducks out of season in Canadian waters, by a volley delivered accidentally from the rifles of three militia men, who were called up by Provincial Officer Delaney to assist him."

PORT ARTHUR GAVE BORDEN WARM WELCOME

Port Arthur, Ont., Dec. 30.—Before the largest audience ever gathered in Port Arthur, and from which thousands had been turned away half an hour before the time the speaker was to commence, Premier Sir Robert Borden this evening addressed the people of Port Arthur on the war.

He traced the development of the Prussian military spirit, blamed Germany for causing the war. He defended Britain's attitude and action, told of Canada's offer and arrangements to participate and predicted ultimate victory. The German preparations were such that besides the British preparations looked insignificant but the British resources are such that besides the German resources look insignificant.

"We are developing these resources of empire," the premier said, "and as Germany has failed in her first attempt to sweep her way to victory the ultimate result is beyond doubt. My message to you is one of good cheer. All goes well. The British war office and officers and those of the allies are perfectly satisfied with developments to date."

During the day Sir Robert and Lady Borden were entertained in the usual way, going about the two cities under the chaperonage of J. J. Carriek M.P. and Mrs. Carriek, holding a public reception at the Prince Arthur Hotel in the evening. The premier left at 10:30 p.m. for Ottawa.

ITALY'S PATIENCE IS EXHAUSTED

London, Dec. 31.—The Rome correspondent of the Daily News says: "I am informed that at tomorrow's cabinet council a decision will be reached in connection with the incident at Hodeida which is still in abeyance. The government's patience is exhausted, and Turkey has been notified that the British consul at Hodeida must be released immediately and the Gendarmerie which broke into the Italian consulate punished."

"Turkey has been warned that no excuse for further delay will be accepted. A satisfactory reply is demanded within two days."

KAISER REPORTED ILL

New York, Dec. 30.—A special cable to the Tribune from Rome says: "It is rumored that the Kaiser has had a relapse and that his condition is serious. It is impossible to obtain confirmation of this report."

GERMAN AND BRITISH MEET

Soldiers Previously Locked in Life and Death Struggle Have an Extraordinary Christmas Truce.

London, Dec. 30.—The Daily News publishes a letter from an officer in the Queen's Westminster Rifles describing the extraordinary Christmas truce.

"I really must tell you about the funniest and most amusing Christmas I have ever spent," says the officer. "As you know, the official armistice did not come off, but the men made one of their own."

"I told you that our section was billeted on fatigue duty. Well, on Christmas Eve, we carried wood up to the firing line from dark until one o'clock in the morning. All the time there was singing, cheering and trumpet calls on both lines, and the Germans had lights all along their front. We were walking with our wood in the bright moonlight, but not a shot was fired at us all the time."

"Next day would have made a good chapter in Dickens' Christmas Carol. It was indeed a tribute to the spirit of Christmas. Many of our men walked out and met the Germans between the lines. I went over in the afternoon and was photographed in a group of English and Germans mixed. We exchanged souvenirs. I got a German ribbon and a photograph of the Crown Prince of Bavaria. The Germans opposite were awfully decent fellows: Saxons, intelligent, respectable looking men. I had quite a decent talk with three or four, and have two names and addresses in my note book."

"It was the strangest scene you could imagine, going out unarmed to meet our enemy, also unarmed. After our talk I really think a lot of our men would have been very happy to have been Saxons, not Prussians."

AUSTRIAN REPORT ON THE SITUATION

Vienna, Dec. 30.—An official statement issued by the war department today gives the following summary of the war situation:

"In the Carpathians our troops delivered an attack north of Luchow pass and occupied several heights. Our counter attack to the north of Luplow pass (Galicia) largely brought to a standstill the Russian advance. "Farther west the army attacked some of the passes with small forces North of Gorlice (Galicia), northwest of Seakliczyn and on the lower course of the Nida, the Russian attack failed. In the region to the east and southeast of Przemyśl (Galicia) we and our allies have made progress."

"In the Balkan war theatre all is quiet on the Serbian front."

SURPRISED BY BRITISH ATTACK

Geneva, via Paris, Dec. 30.—News has reached Romanshorn from Friedrichshafen to the effect that during the recent British aerial raid on Ouxhaven one of the latest super-Zeppelins, which was completed two months ago, was entirely destroyed in its shed by bombs dropped by the aviators, and that another Zeppelin only escaped by rising rapidly in the air.

It is stated that the British attack on Ouxhaven where the Zeppelins were stationed, came as a complete surprise. The Friedrichshafen factory it is stated has received urgent orders to hasten the completion of two zeppelins now building in order to replace the big machine destroyed. The men in the factory are working overtime. Count Zeppelin arrived at Friedrichshafen from the front yesterday to supervise the work.

Madrid, Dec. 30.—Captain Castellan, a Spanish army aviator, while flying in a biplane over the aerodrome today fell from a height of 300 feet and was killed.

GERMANY THREATENED WITH FOOD FAMINE

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—That the food conditions, both in Austria and Germany have already become serious and threaten to grow exceedingly acute by 1915 is the opinion of T. K. Doherty, of Ottawa, the Canadian commissioner for the international institute of agriculture, which has its headquarters in Rome.

Mr. Doherty, through his position has exceptional opportunities for studying the world's food problem. He has been giving close attention to the situation in Germany and Austria-Hungary, and has made an interesting analysis of the problem as it affects these two countries.

The over-running of Galicia and Eastern Prussia by Russia, he thinks a serious matter for Germany and her ally, as these are great agricultural provinces. He points out that Galicia which is now almost completely in the hands of the Russians, produced two years ago 22,468,000 bushels of rye, 144,974,000 bushels of potatoes, 22,848,000 bushels of wheat and 30,320,000 bushels of barley. This loss to Austria he regards as most serious. Eastern Prussia is equally important to Germany from an agricultural standpoint. The crop deficiency, he thinks, threatens most serious consequences for these countries.

Mr. Doherty also points out that the wastage of horses in both countries must be tremendous, the home supply inadequate and difficulty of importing any considerable number formidable. He declares that the situation is already acute and is growing constantly worse.

DUAL MONARCHY TORN BY STRIFE

Rioting Against the War Takes Place in Six Provinces of Austria-Hungary—Disturbances in Buda Pest.

London, Dec. 31.—The Daily Chronicle's Basle, Switzerland correspondent, forwards despatches received from various parts of Austria-Hungary purporting to show that rioting against the war is occurring in six provinces of the Dual Monarchy. In the despatches it is alleged that peace manifestations in Vienna were suppressed by the police, who charged the crowd, wounding thirty persons and arresting a large number of demonstrators.

Even more emphatic disturbances are of daily occurrence in Budapest, according to the despatches, and similar reports have been received from Prague, Transylvania and Dalmatian towns.

The despatches say there was a panic in Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia or the advance of the Serbians and that a hundred arrests have taken place there in connection with a revolutionary plot.

BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE

Paris, Dec. 30.—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:

"There are no important incidents to report except bombardments in the region of Arras and on the heights of the Meuse and progress in Champagne which seems to have been quite pronounced."

"The bad weather persists along the greater part of the front."

AUSTRIAN WARSHIP BADLY DAMAGED

London, Dec. 31.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Venice contains a report that a French submarine boat has torpedoed the Austrian dreadnought Viribus Unitas at Pola. It is said the hull of the dreadnought was pierced but that she succeeded in reaching her dock.

The Viribus Unitas is of 20,000 tons displacement and has a complement of 1,000 men. She is one of the four ships constituting the largest type of Austrian warships.

London newspaper despatches from Venice in September said that one side of Viribus Unitas had been badly damaged in a fight in the Adriatic, but that she escaped her pursuers.

WAITING TO MOVE INTO TRENCHES

Princess Patricia Regiment on Firing Line—The Canadians Were Warmly Welcomed by British Comrades.

London, Dec. 30.—Since the Russian defeat of the Austrians in Galicia, while not irreparable, it likely to have a marked effect on the whole Austro-German campaign in the east, these has been no important development on either front. The allies though making no dramatic attacks on the German line, are still steadily hammering away with their artillery, and, when occasion arises, push their line a few yards forward. A French eye witness in a description of the battles from December 16 to 24, gives a good idea of the kind of fighting in progress and records gained, which, while by themselves, are marked only in yards, amount in the aggregate to a considerable advance at many points. A few hundred yards in Flanders were taken by primitive methods for having the breaches of their rifles choked with mud, they used them as clubs and in many cases fought the Germans with their fists.

In one little French village within sound of the guns, Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, the first of the Canadian contingent to go to the front, are billeted, waiting their turn to go into the trenches.

They were accorded a splendid reception by British comrades in arms and the French villagers.

With the defeat of the Austrians in Galicia and South Poland, and the retirement of the Germans across the Bura, Petrograd believes that the turning point has been reached in the battle of the Polish river. The chief fighting is now taking place on the Pilica, where the Germans are still on the offensive and have brought up big guns.

The losses in these battles have reached enormous figures in dead, wounded and prisoners, and must have been largely added to by disease, for the men fought under dreadful climatic conditions and in mud, for which Poland is notorious.

MAY NOT RESIGN

London, Dec. 29.—A deputation of public representatives, professors and others from many parts of Ireland, has appealed to the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland asking him to withdraw his resignation.

Lord Aberdeen has agreed to reconsider.

The regular meeting of Silver Leaf Temple No. 1 Pythian Sisters will be held this evening at 7:30 in the Odd-fellows' Hall.

MASQUERADE BALL NEW YEAR'S NIGHT

The Masquerade Ball on New Year's night under the auspices of Silver Leaf Temple No. 1 Pythian Sisters is the talk of the town and the event promises to be most entertaining to those who attend.

This is an annual affair of the local Pythian Sisters and hitherto the event has always been successful. This year promises to be no exception to the rule and as a splendid prize list has been arranged, the competition for prizes is sure to be keen. The event will be held in the Odd-fellows Hall, commencing at nine o'clock.

JAPAN DENIES REPORT

Tokio, Dec. 31.—The foreign office says the reports in circulation that Japanese troops have landed at Vladivostok, or any other place, on their way to Europe, are absolutely untrue.

The big freighter, Corozal, after loading bunkers here, sailed yesterday morning. Other vessels called during the holidays at the Western Fuel Company's wharves were the Celtic, bunkers; Swell, bunkers and Acow; and the Henriette, cargo.

DROPPED BOMBS ON DUNKIRK

London, Dec. 31.—News reached Dover last night that a squadron of seven aeroplanes flew over Dunkirk yesterday (Wednesday) and dropped bombs.