

HEAVY ACTION IS REPORTED FROM ALL EUROPEAN BATTLE THEATRES BUT NO PROGRESS

Allies' Offensive in Belgium and France is Being Pressed and Slight Advancement is Reported—British and French Experts Think Steady Advance is Disturbing the German Leaders—All Quiet in the North.

ADVANTAGES ABOUT EVEN IN THE FAR EAST BOTH ARMIES ADVANCING AND RETREATING

Russians Hold in Check Austro-German Advance in Galicia and East Prussia, While the Germans Continue Successful South of the River Exura—Russians Claim to Have Severely Defeated Turks in Van.

London, December 22.—Heavy fighting is taking place on both eastern and western fronts, but without producing any material change in the positions of the opposing armies.

In France and Belgium the Allies' offensive is being pressed, and while some ground has been gained at widely separated points, other attacks have been repulsed by the Germans from their strongly entrenched positions.

While the progress of the Allies is extremely slow, military experts here and in France believe the gains which the general staff has reported are disturbing the Germans' system of fortifications at vital points, and will, if successfully continued, compel a retirement by the Germans from their present lines.

In the East most of the Germans north of the Vistula have retired from the East Prussian frontier before the onrush of the Russian forces, but south of that river, between the Bzura and the Pilica, the Germans continue their advance and announce tonight that in a fierce battle they have crossed branches of Bzura and Rawka rivers at many places.

Fighting also continues in Galicia, but here, as along the East Prussian frontier, the Russians seem to have held back the Austro-German forces. The Germans, who are extremely strong along the whole eastern frontier, already are reported to be moving troops back to the West to meet the Allies' offensive, but it is not considered likely this movement will reach large proportions until some decisive result has been attained in the contest against the Russians.

The Turks, like their allies, are being attacked on two sides. The Russians claim to have inflicted a severe defeat on them in the District of Van, while the Allied fleets have been bombarding Kild Bahr in the Dardanelles, and a French destroyer has shelled their troops on the mainland, opposite the island of Tenedos.

The first real view of the extent of the South African rebellion is given by the minister of justice, who says that 4,000 rebels are in prison and that 1,200 have been sent to their homes on parole. There are still a few roaming about the country, but they are without leaders, and are surrendering upon the appearance of union soldiers.

FROM THE RUSSIAN FRONT

GERMAN COMMUNICATION.

Statement from the Russian Commander-in-Chief is Given Out.

Petrograd, Dec. 22.—The following statement from the general staff of the Russian commander-in-chief, was issued tonight:

"On December 21, on the left bank of the Vistula river between its lower course and the Pilica river, a number of fierce encounters. Among these the fighting on the left bank of the Pilica developed particularly."

"In general we repulsed all these attacks, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy."

"We evacuated only some small positions and fell back toward the East in order to occupy more advantageous positions."

"Our counter attacks resulted in the throwing into the river the German troops who had crossed the Bzura near Stryzowo. These troops suffered heavy losses in killed. Also we captured the quick firing guns."

"The situation between the Pilica river and the upper Vistula river is without important change, except in the region of Stryzowo, where the Austrians after having crossed the Nida river, were pushed back upon that stream by the bayonet attacks of our troops."

"Thirteen of their officers and about 1,000 soldiers surrendered."

"It has been established that in the region of Przedborz on the 19th instant we took 17 officers and about 1,000 men."

"In Galicia our operations on the 21st instant continued to develop successfully."

"Near Gyglice, an Austrian division was suddenly attacked upon our troops and eventually was thrown back in disorder leaving behind 1,500 dead."

"Another Austrian division which attacked us with the bayonet at Godlowo was defeated, leaving of the battlefield the bodies of 500 of their men. In this same region the Austrians under pressure of our offensive lost many prisoners, three guns and some mitrailleuses."

"The sorties attempted by the garrison of Przemyśl all were repulsed. The Austrians were thrown back toward their fortifications and suffered heavy losses."

"The Austrians who were attacking us on the 21st instant were repulsed and suffered heavy losses."

British Attempt to Retake Lost Positions and Partially Succeed.

Berlin, (by Wireless to London) Dec. 22.—The German official report given out this afternoon reads as follows:

"At Neuport and in the region around Ypres the situation yesterday was generally quiet."

"In order to re-capture the positions lost by them December 20th at St. Hubert and Givenchy, the English forces, reinforced by French territorialists, made desperate attacks during the day of yesterday and last night, all of which, however, were repulsed. In the region around Richebourg, the enemy succeeded in obtaining a firm foothold in his old positions."

"French attacks yesterday in the neighborhood of Albert at Souain and at Peres were repulsed with heavy losses to the French."

"In the western part of the Argonne district, we captured a few trenches. In the Eastern Argonne, to the north and northwest of Verdun, French attacks were repulsed with heavy losses to the French."

"The situation in East and West Prussia is unchanged. In Poland our troops engaged in a fierce battle for possession of branches of the Bzura and Rawka rivers. In many instances they crossed over tributaries already in their possession."

"On the right bank of the Pilica the fighting by the German allies continues."

"Unfortunately it was discovered yesterday after the publication of the army communication the following appendix:

"This order must be made known to all our troops this evening; its publication in the press is prevented."

FRENCH OFFICIAL REPORT

Same Slow But Certain Advance is Being Made by Allies in Belgium.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The French war office this afternoon gave out an official statement as follows:

"Between the sea and the Lys, during the day of December 21, there was nothing other than artillery engagements. Between the Lys and the Aisne we repulsed a German column which was endeavoring to come out from Ger-

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FRUSTRATE PLOT TO BLOW UP SHIP

New Orleans Police Make Four Arrests—Germans.

FRENCH LINER SPOTTED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT

Bomb, Set by Clock Work to Explode Six and One-Half Days From Last Night, Was to Be Shipped to Steamer.

New Orleans, Dec. 22.—The arrest tonight of four men who, according to the police, admitted that they were Germans, is believed by local officials and operatives of a national detective agency to have frustrated a plot to blow up the French steamship Rochambeau, which is due to leave New York next Saturday.

The police have in their possession a box containing 75 pounds of dynamite connected with a mechanical device arranged to explode the charge six and one-half days from tonight. The plan, according to the police, was to ship the bomb by express consigned to the Rochambeau at New York. It was intended that the vessel would be blown up after she got to sea.

One of those arrested, Peter Langlaan, the police say, told them that while he was willing to blow up a French or English ship, he was not willing to see innocent persons die.

Other Arrests Made. After Langlaan had told of his part in the affair, the police arrested Frank Helon, alias Han Hellar and held him on a charge of preparing explosives to ship, in violation of regulations covering the shipment of such commodities.

George Summers and George Brinkman were held as accessories and Langlaan was allowed his freedom. Helar admitted the police say that he knew Hellar was working upon some plan of explosives, but denied knowledge of the plot to blow up the Rochambeau.

After being confronted with his alleged conspirators, the police say Hellar admitted that he had intended to blow up some French or British ship, and that if he failed with the attempt against the Rochambeau he expected to try some other vessel. He said he was a waiter out of work and intended to "do something to help the fatherland."

Detectives who worked on the case said tonight that Hellar told them that he got the idea of a clock arrangement for timing the operations of the McNamara brothers.

GODWIN IN HOSPITAL AND COULDN'T VOTE

Pou and Small Only Tar Heels Who Voted "No."

Congressman Webb Leads Fight for Prohibitionists—Pou Speaks Against Hobson Resolution in the House.

(Special Star Telegram.) Washington, D. C., Dec. 22.—Representatives Pou and Small, of North Carolina, were the only two members of the State delegation who voted against the Hobson amendment which would prevent the sale of liquor throughout the United States. The others, with the exception of Representative Godwin, who is ill in a Washington hospital, voted with the prohibitionists.

Representative Pou presented a strong argument in favor of his position and was given an ovation when he took his seat. Mr. Pou contended that the ratification of the amendment would not prevent the wholesale consumption of intoxicating drinks.

"All of my life," he said, "I have striven for temperance. I voted for prohibition in my own State. I not only supported the Webb law, but I had the honor to present the resolution from the committee on rules providing for consideration of that measure. I voted for prohibition when it was not popular to do so in the county in which I live. In my heart, I feel that I want to do what I can to promote the cause of temperance. Never in my life have I knowingly voted for an immoral proposition."

"Under this proposed amendment any man who can raise a few dollars to pay for whiskey still can manufacture all the whiskey or brandy he cares to make. The blockade still is the curse of any rural community. If you allow the man who is willing to violate the law to make all the whiskey he wishes, he will take the chances about selling it. This amendment does not prevent the manufacture of intoxicating liquor. It only prevents the manufacture when it is made for sale."

Representative Webb, who has always stood for prohibition measures, had charge of the prohibition side of the question today. He made a 25-minute speech in support of the amendment.

P. R. A. Newport, N. C., Dec. 22.—The British steamer Mechanician steamed from this port today for Liverpool, carrying about 1,000 horses destined ultimately for use by the Allied armies in the war zones of Europe.

ATTEMPT ROBBERY RICHMOND BANKS

Out of Two Trials, One Proves Successful.

TWO THOUSAND IN BILLS TAKEN AND GET AWAY MADE WITHOUT DETECTION.

Plan to Get Ten Thousand Blocked—Men Escape.

Richmond, Va., December 22.—Bank robbers this afternoon stole \$2,000 through the receiving teller's window of the Central National Bank and succeeded in making their escape before the loss was discovered.

A number of persons were in the bank at the time, and a pre-arranged telephone call to the receiving teller was used to draw him from his booth, while the packages of money were drawn through the window.

Another attempt at bank robbery was made during the morning at the First National bank, when four men were detected in an effort to force the wicket of the shipping clerk's window, behind which \$10,000 in bills of large denominations were lying.

A clerk discovered them, but they calmly walked from the building before they could be apprehended.

SOUTH GIVEN CLOUDY WEATHER FOR HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS

Washington, Dec. 22.—Snappy temperatures and clear skies will prevail Christmas day throughout the United States with the probable exception of the Gulf States, according to the weather bureau predictions tonight.

The bureau's chart map showed fine weather everywhere except in the Gulf States which had been darkened to indicate approaching clouds. The forecasters said nothing extreme in temperatures was expected. The mercury averaged a few degrees in some sections they said, but nowhere was it likely to be unusually cold.

Everywhere North of the Ohio river line from the New England States to the Rocky Mountains sufficient snow has already fallen to last over Christmas.

SECOND DECISION MADE AS TO TILLMAN CHILDREN

Mrs. Tillman is Again Awarded Custody of Her Two Daughters.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 22.—The State supreme court today reaffirmed its order entered two years ago by which Mrs. Lucy Dugas Tillman was awarded custody of her two children, Sarah Starks Tillman and Douschka Pickens Tillman, the court directed that B. R. Tillman, Jr., father of the children, should have possession of them during certain periods of 1915. Today's decision resulted from a hearing on an order which required Mrs. Tillman to show cause why custody of her daughters should not be awarded to another person. The proceeding was due to alleged refusal of the children to obey a court order which they spend the months of July and August, 1914, with United States Senator B. R. Tillman, their grandfather.

JEWELLER KILLED BY ASHEVILLE MERCHANT

Coroner Orders E. M. Jarrett Held Without Bail.

Surrenders After Shooting to Death Wm. B. Grant, 72 Years Old, but Claims Killing Was Justifiable.

(Special Star Telegram.) Asheville, N. C., Dec. 22.—William B. Grant, aged 72, local jeweller, was shot and killed this morning at the store of Blue Ridge Mercantile Company by E. M. Jarrett, an Asheville merchant, who is being held without bond. The latter surrendered to an officer immediately after the shooting and was named by the coroner's jury as being responsible for the death of deceased.

He states that he was justifiable, although he will make no other statement, being advised by his attorneys to give nothing to the public at this time. The killing is said to have followed a heated argument between the two men which is said to have arisen over a note received by the deceased containing vile threats. The note is reported to be unsigned. The men are said to have had disagreements during the past few weeks and it is believed that these were largely responsible for today's tragedy.

A search of deceased revealed the fact that there was an open knife in his pocket although some of the witnesses have testified that he opened it after he was shot and was falling. Both men are married.

COAL RATES SUSPENDED

Interstate Commerce Commission Holds Up Proposed Increase in Rates.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Increase in freight rates on coal and coke, in carloads, from mines in Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and Illinois, to Memphis, New Orleans and destinations in other States were suspended by the Interstate Commerce Commission today until April 30. The increases average 15 cents a ton on coal and from 10c to 50c a ton on coke.

The Bijou—Everybody's Goin' To See "The Master Key" Today.

Be sure to see us before selecting your Christmas presents. C. H. Ford & Co.—Advertisement.

TWO MEN CONFESS KILLING OF LAWYER

Retired Attorney Killed in His Los Angeles Home.

GIRLS PUT UP FIGHT

Daughters of Dead Man and a Son Engaged Burglars—Former With Silver Mounted Hairbrushes, Did Much Damage.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 22.—Glenn Witt and Ethelbert C. Oxman were arrested late today in connection with the killing of William M. Alexander, a wealthy retired lawyer, by burglars in his home here this morning. Witt is said to have confessed.

Witt showed a number of bruises, which the police thought were from blows administered by Miss Penelope Alexander, who grappled with the robber after her brother William had been shot. Oxman had a bullet wound in his leg.

Oxman also confessed, the police declared, saying it was he who had shot and killed Alexander.

Penelope and Anna Alexander, had battered the robbers with silver backed hair brushes.

Fought Like Wild Cats.

Those two girls fought like wild cats," said Witt, according to police that he shot William Alexander, Jr., when the son rushed to aid his father. Penelope and Anna, the young man's sisters, were down during the fight and made such a brave showing that the men fled from the house, leaving their hats, shoes and socks on the lawn outside.

"When the old man was awakened by a noise I made, he fired at me. I returned the fire," was Oxman's statement as reported by the police.

Young Alexander was shot in the chest, but is not dangerously wounded. Mr. Alexander said she was entering the room where her husband was killed and had taken off her rings to give them to the burglars when the fatal shot was fired. Her husband died in her arms.

FORMER SENATOR WEST IS FOUND DEAD IN BED

Prominent Georgia Politician Succumbs.

Heart Failure is Given as the Cause of His Death—Was Well Known and a Leader in Georgia State Democracy.

Valosta, Ga., Dec. 22.—William Stanley West, former United States senator from Georgia, was found dead in bed at his home here early today. He retired last night apparently in good health and died some time during the night.

Physicians stated that death apparently was due to apoplexy. Mr. West was appointed by Governor Slaton to the United States Senate March 2nd, 1914, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator A. O. Bacon. His term expired last November when Thomas W. Hardwick, then a congressman, was elected to the Senate. Mr. West was born in Marion county, Georgia, August 23, 1849, and was graduated from Mercer University at Macon in 1880.

The former senator had been prominent in Georgia politics for many years. He served several terms in the legislature. He was a delegate at large to the Democratic national convention in Denver in 1908. His wife and 14-year-old son, William S. West, Jr., survive him.

Funeral services for Mr. West will take place at his home here tomorrow afternoon. Burial also will be here. Dr. Allen Wilson, of the First Christian church, will conduct the services. Governor Slaton, of Georgia, is included in the list of pall-bearers.

The former senator had a slight attack of indigestion yesterday but was improved late in the day. Physicians attribute his sudden death to heart failure.

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PROHIBITION RESOLUTION DEFEATED IN LOWER HOUSE AFTER LENGTHY STRUGGLE

Hobson Measure, Which Would Have Submitted Prohibition to State Legislatures, Gets Majority of Votes Cast, But Not the Required Two-Thirds—Debate on Resolution Lasts Over Ten Hours, With Vote Just Before 12 o'Clock Last Night.

After Ten Hours of Heated Debate on Amendment Midnight Approaches.

Washington, Dec. 22.—After more than ten hours of debate the House of Representatives shortly before midnight tonight was ready for a roll call on the Hobson resolution to submit to the states an amendment for national prohibition.

It was at the conclusion of one of the most stirring of recent days in Congress and after votes on several amendments that the final vote was reached. Representative Hobson had closed the general debate, participated in by all the House members.

Although advocates of the resolution predicted it would receive a majority vote, many of them, including Mr. Hobson, conceded that it would not receive the two-thirds necessary for passage.

Before the roll call began, Representative Hobson presented an amendment to his resolution authorizing "Congress and the states concurrently" to enforce the prohibition provision by "needful legislation." It was adopted without division.

An amendment giving the states absolute control of legislation under the proposed prohibition amendment was voted down 32 to 178.

Representative Hobson made a final spectacular move. "Mr. Speaker," he said, "I wish to ask whether any member of this House who has a financial interest in the question in any way, be it in distilleries, or breweries, or who has a saloon or who has property leased to liquor interests, can under the rules vote on this question."

The speaker explained that, according to precedent, if a member was affected as one of a class, the rules would not prevent his voting but that the question usually was left to the member himself.

Henry Opposed Amendment. Representative Henry, of Texas, opposed the amendment. "This question is one which must be left to the individual states," he said. "I love my country, but I will never support a constitutional amendment that will send a horde of Federal spies, satraps and inter-meddlers into Texas."

Representative Heflin, of Alabama, declared state control of the liquor traffic was making good progress in Alabama and argued against "surrendering to the Federal government the reserved powers of the states which saved the South in the days of reconstruction."

Representative Saunders, of Virginia, supported it, and argued against the contention that it would "rob the states of reserved powers."

"The fear of the gentleman that an army of Federal spies and informers and officials will invade the states is but a poor argument," he said. "This army is there now, spies, informers and all. It is under the internal revenue bureau."

Small is Opposed. That no Democrat could afford to vote for the resolution was the assertion of Representative Small, of North Carolina, on the ground that it would be a disastrous blow to state rights.

Proposing a substitute for the Hobson resolution, which would prevent the importation of liquor into any state from any outside source, Representative Morrison, of Indiana, kept the House in an uproar of laughter with a vigorous speech.

"There are 13 men in the Indiana delegation in this House who will vote against this resolution," he said, "and I can point out to you one man who will support the Hobson resolution who drinks more liquor in 12 days than those 13 men do in 12 years."

Representative Dupre, of Louisiana, closing the opposition warned Southern members who proposed to vote for the resolution that they would be forced to a "grand and lofty tumbling" when confronted with the problem of the Federal government authority to enfranchise women of the states.

Representative Hobson declared supporters of the resolutions were more consistent than its opponents in respecting rights of the individual states.

Hobson Makes Reply. Representative Hobson replied to a (Continued on Page Eight.)

Others Voting "No." Republicans: Barfield, Bartholmew, Britton, Brown, Wisconsin; Browning, Calder, Cary, Cooper, Curry, Danforth, Davis, Drukker, Edmonds, Esch, Frear, Gardner, Gillett, Greene, Massachusetts; Green, Vermont; Hayes, Howell; Johnson, Utah; Kahn, Kennedy, Rhode Island; J. P. Knowland, Lenroot, Madden, Manahan, Mann, Miller, Moore, Morin, Moot, Parker, New Jersey; Parker, New York; Platt, Fowler, Roberts, Massachusetts; Roberts, Nevada; Rogers, Scott, Smith, Minnesota; Stafford, Stevens, Minnesota; Treadway, Winslow.—Total 46.

Independent—Kefauver, New York. I. Grand total against resolution—189.