PAGES TODAY Two Sections

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ESCAPE OF NICHOLAS ROMANOFF IS REPORTED TO THE BOLSHEVIK HEADQUARTERS; LEADERS DENYIT

Special Train Manned by Sailors Leaves Petrograd in Pursuit of the Ex-Czar

ESCAPE RUMORED BEFORE

Was Reported to Washington on December 8 by American Consul at Tiflis

Nicholas Reported to Have Been Made Emperor of Siberia

Petrograd, Déc. 15 .- Former escaped from his confinement at Tobolsk, according to advices reseived today at the Smolny Instinte, the Bolsheviki headquarters.

A special train manned by sailregrad for the pursuit of the for-

denial was made at the Smolny

The American consul at Tiflis, in the Russian Caucasus, recently sent a report, which was received in Washingon on December , stating that a rumor was in circulation that former Emperor Nicholas had escaped. The message made it clear that there was no confirmation and there has been nothing since received confirmatory of the report until the Petrograd advices today. Tobolsk is in Siberia, about 1,500 miles

Shortly after the recent escape of General Korniloff and almost concurently with the rumor from Tiflis that the former emperor had escaped, one of he Bolsheviki government organs in etrograd announced that several deichments of sailors had been sent to

Tobolsk to guard him. Many of the rumors that were curent at about the time that the Tiflis report was in circulation, reached Lon-The route through Harbin was lolsk is 1,000 miles from the Pacific coast and 1,000 miles from the Chinese

confirmed reports in November of a political overturn in Siberia which had made that vast province a land friendly came through Finland, said that Siberia reclaimed Nicholas its emperor.

SSOCIATED PRESS SUMMARY

OF THE REPORTED ESCAPE reported to have made his escap-

revious reports of the escape of detailing of officers also is recomlas had him making his way out mended. Harbin is a long one, how-Siberia itself might be a safe asy- | June 30. him for the time being, as that Ovince was reported last month STATE NORMAL GIRLS declared its independence and lamed Nicholas as its emperor. ffect of the escape upon Boligmatic in many ways has been course of the Lenine-Trotzgovernment in Petrograd, which

to be getting the upper many parts of the country outs thern centers, overcoming on of the more conservative orce after they nad established the college Y. W. C. A. sway by drastic measures, coupled with their hold on the proletariat "sform and peace measures.

PARCES EDWARDS ARRAIGNED.

Raleigh, Dec. 15 .- Marcus Edwards.

defense according to his amount. Edwards shot his wife three times

Russo-German Negotiations For Peace Showing Results

Berlin Announces That a Draft of a "Treaty" Has Been Formulated .- Italian Line Stands Firm in the Face of Continuous Assaults-Local Fighting on the Anglo-French Front

(Associated Press War Summary) The Russo-German peace negotiations are reported proceeding apace. A German official announcement says the Teutons. the conditions and draft of a "treaty" have been formulated, the discussions having been put over from Friday to Saturday, however, as the Russian delegates desired to obtain supplementary instructions from their government. Whether the word "treaty" Emperor Nicholas of Russia has refers to a formal peace treaty or merely to the armistice agreement salem. that had been pending is not celar

from the German announcement. Italian Line Still Intact. The Italian front remains the only major field of military operations in during the war. which there is more than local activity on the part of the infantry. The ors has been dispatched from Pe- Italian line, although almost cease- have been lost by the British, one of was serious, but that his committee here forced at the cost of extremely Dutch territory

claims the taking of more than 3,000. prisoners in the fighting of the last few days and the repulse of Italian counter attacks on positions won by

Keep Anglo-French Guessing.

The Franco-Belgian front is inactive except for local fighting mostly due to German thrusts here and there delivered with the seeming intention of keeping the Anglo-French command guessing as to the enemy inten-

In Palestine the British have scored 5,000 Norwegian Sailors Lost. In making known the sinking

British Naval Losses. lessly assailed in the mountain re- which was sunk by a seaplane in the was making great progress towards regions, is still intact and holding well North Sea while on patrol and the lieving congestion in the pending terexcept for a small recession here and other being compelled to descend in minal territory. because of engine

Nicholas Romanoff had escaped GEN. SCOTT URGES HOOVER REPLIES A REORGANIZATION

ment be Placed on Sound General Staff Basis

SUBMITS FINAL

vice As a National Policy Recommended to Congress By For-

mer Chief of Staff.

tion of the war department on a sound by Claus Spreckels, president of the their homes. regarded as the most natural one for universal military service as a na- fore a senate investigating committee out the frozen masses of coal at New 10 take. The difficulties in his tional policy are recommended in the that the food administration is respon- Jersey terminals where some, estilast annual report of Major General sible for a sugar shortage, drew from mates place the supply at more than document, made public tonight, is de- vigorous attack on Mr. Spreckles.

to the former ruler. The report, which the army in a spirit "freed from ev- transactions. ery touch of personal interest or preand declared its independence and had judice," and recommends that the Hoover, "to establish that Mr. Spreckthe army in all that pertains to "dis- to see it destroyed. cipline, recruiting, instruction, intelcholas Romanoff, former emperor ligence, training, arming, equipping, sheet will not look so good next year ussia deposed last March by the mobilization, transportation, educa- as last, for refiners' profits have been utionists and for several months tion, moving of troops, the apoint-regulated. Furthermore, his balance The report, unlike the previous ru- co-operation of the entire miltary es- been reduced and held fast, in the face ors to this effect, came through the tablishment. Creation of chiefs of of a partial shortage that promised Bolsheviki headquarters in Petrograd, cavalry, infantry and field artillery a fair opportunity for 30 cent sugar and few hours later it was officially under the chief of staff and staff sec- much increased profits. dealed by Bolsheviki leaders that Nich- tions to deal with recruiting, movement of troops and promotion and to feel badly. There are other citizens

eria through Harbin, Manchuria. The annual reports of the adjutant general and inspector general also would have 4.000 miles to were made public tonight, but they ore reaching the Pacific coast | add little information as to the presolsk, although that place it- ent military situation, or the condiome 1,500 miles east of Mos- tion of the army, as they deal mainthere remains the possibility ly with the period prior to the last

Were Allotted \$3,000 Y. W. C. A. War Relief and Paid In Over \$5,000 Be-

fore Dinner. (Special Star Telegram) Greensboro, Dec. 15 .- Announcement

was made today that the student body and faculty of the State Normal Colfograd, indeed, have latterly come lege had paid in for the war relief the view that the Bolsheviki fund before noon \$5,012.10 or \$12.10 enders were planning eventually to more than the final total of the pledges The college set a new standard in

the South Atlantic states by its brough the popularity of their land pledges per capita, and it is believed and the military relations between the ed to the federal fuel administration plosion which wrecked the northern to have surpassed all records in the armies in the field, and the department, at Washington for necessary coal ap- section of this city, were not given report made today.

When the pledges were made it was with the understanding that all were Baker. to be paid by December 15. The colin the city court today for leges of the United States undertook tary and assistant secretary of war, the lail without bail to await trial in College was \$3,000. It headed the list jor General Erasmus M. Weaver, chief be issued within a few days."

personal sacrifices among the students, vost marshal general. the head. The police say he must who are filled with zeal over the op- Mr. Baker's announcement said that present normal requirements. have fired two of the shots after she portunity to serve. Many of them when General Tasker H. Bliss, chief of The Raleigh-Charlotte passenger to the collision, Mackay said he board also will meet the University of Pennto be obtained and there have been bad two of the shots after she portunity to serve. Many of them when General Tasker H. Bliss, chief of The Raleigh-Charlotte passenger to the collision, Mackay said he board also will meet the University of Pennto be obtained and there have been bad two of the shots after she portunity to serve. had fallen from the effects of the gave up cherished personal luxuries staff, who participated in the inter- train service was to have been cut off ed the Mont Blanc at 7:30 on the morn- sylvania, in Philadelphia, on Novem- absolutely no personal differences or the fallen from the effects of the gave up cherished on Page Two)

(Continued on Page Two) or plans to give to the fund.

Petrograd, Dec. 15 .- An official heavy casualties on the part of the trouble. The British admiralty also (Continued On Page Two)

Recommends That War Depart- Says Spreckles is Sore Because His Profits on Sugar Have Been Cut Down

REPORT OTHERS FEEL SAME WAY

Adoption of Universal Military Ser- Food Administrator Says the Sugar Supply is 70 Per Cent. Normal. Relief Will Not Come Until After This Month.

voted almost wholly to a discussion | An open intimation is made by Mr. General Scott asks that congress ex- was inspired by the fact that the food amine the question of staff control of administration cut profits in sugar the poor increased. In many of the

"It requires no proof from me," said chief of staff be made the secretary's els, a leading sugar refiner, is sore at one and only organ for command of the food administration and would like

"I realize that Mr. Spreckels' balance ment, promotion, detail and selection sheet would have looked better this of officers" with authority to secure year if the price of last August had not

> "Mr. Spreckels, therefore, has reason (Continued on Page Twelve)

ing to Supplies

Also Another Purpose is to Co-ordinate Relations Between the Armies in the Field and the War De-

partment.

monarchial form of governmen | made in the recent campaign through of a war council of the war department number of passenger trains and readto co-ordinate all matters of supplies just entire passenger service. for the armies at home and overseas. The corporation commission appeal-

Composing the council are the secre- mission:

(Continued On Page Two)

Fuel Administration Redoubles Ef. forts to Have Cars Tied Up on Tracks Moved

MANY PLANTS SHUT DOWN

100,000 Men Idle at Cleveland. Ohio-Thousands of Children Cold in New York

Washington, Dec. 15 .- Reports of almost nation-wide suffering due to lack of coal stirred fuel administration officials today to redoubled efforts to release supplies held on tracks by car

Orders went forth to fuel administration representatives in the middle west a further advance northeast of Jeru- to make every attempt to move coal to points in many instances declared to be facing actual coal famines. A. W. of Thompson, chairman of the operating two more Norwegian steamers, the committee of eastern railroads, was Norwegian government announces 5 - called into conference by Fuel Adminis-000 Norwegian sailors have been lost trator Garneld for suggestions as to relieving the situation.

After his conference with Dr. Gar-Two airships of the non-rigid type field, Mr. Thompson said the situation

Fuel Administrator Johnson, of Onio, reported from Cleveland tonight that he had started 60 carloads of coal into that city, where 100,000 men were idle today because of the shutting down of plants lacking power. Mr. Johnson said.

elegraphed that thousands of children were cold and that an epidemic of pneu-

monia was feared. At Quincy, Mass., the Fore River plant of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Company is running on short time begovernment arsenal at Watertown, Mass., will shut down December 18 if coal is not obtained. In Beaver Valley, Pa., women and children were reported to be housed in churches and schools that they might keep warm.

Street car systems in many towns are cause of lack of fuel.

VIGOROUS EFFORTS MADE

New York, Dec. 15 .- Vigorous efforts were made today to relieve New York's coal shortage but results were not expected to be apparent before Monday. In the meantime it was estimated 250,000 and 300,000 families Washington, Dec. 15 .- Reorganiza- Washington, Dec. 15 .- Charges made are urgently in need of fuel to warm

Large forces of men were employed general staff basis and adoption of Federal Sugar Refining Company, be- to work tonight and tomorrow digging Hugh L. Scott, as chief of staff. The Food Administrator Hoover tonight a city's door, not much more than 10,-000 tons were distributed today, although the normal daily consumption is twice that amount.

With the temperature far under the freezing point, suffering among large downtown office buildings heat was shut off at noon.

According to railroad officials, coal is being received at the New Jersey terminals in "unprecedented quantities," but lack of labor has hindered Wrecking crews were put to work unloading coal today and the task will continue all day Sunday, it was said.

NORFOLK COAL FAMINE Va., Dec. 15.-Relief is in sight tonight for the sufferers from the acute coal famine, with the arrival of a trainload of anthracite and soft coal. The coal dealers have issued an appeal to those having auto-trucks to put them at the service of the various coal companies, and met with generous response. The city directed all trucks and wagons in the scavenger department to be put in operation. Deliveries will be made throughout tonight and Sunday until every household in need has a temporary supply. The gas plant. operated with great difficulty, owing to shortage of coal, tonight has every machine working at capacity.

SET NEW WAR RECORD For Co-ordinating Matters Relat- NORFOLK SOUTHERN WILL GET COAL IN FEW DAYS

Announcement That It Would Cut Off Trains Brought Prompt Promise of Fuel Supplies.

(Correspondence of The Star.) Raleigh, Dec. 15.-Relief seems in sight for the coal shortage of the Norfolk Southern, which was about to Washington, Dec. 15 .- Organization make it necessary to discontinue a

administration to the corporation com-

death his wife a week to raise \$1,000,000 for the relief work chief of staff and Major General Henry aration for fuel requirements of the mony at the government inquiry into walted examination and was sent and apportioned to the State Normal G. Sharpe, quartermaster general; Ma. Norfolk Southern and will doubtless the disaster today. Hayes, who was

drst.

Recruiting Offices Unable To Take Care of the Rush Of Recruits On Final Day

More Than 70,000 Men Enlisted in the Regular Army From December 1 to 15-Volunteers Since Declaration of War Total More Than 337,000—First Five Per Cent of the Ques-

tionnaires Mailed Out Yesterday.

many recruiting offices to care for the be completed until later. rush of men to join the regular army before the new draft regulations became effective today was reflected in recruiting figures for yesterday. , The day's total was only 9,104, as compared Provost Marshal General Crowder anwith 14,291 Thursday, when the re-

cruiting system broke down. Friday's figures with three States, Arizona, New Hampshire and South! Carolina missing, swelled the December enlistments to 70,466 men, not takinto account those accepted today up to noon, when enlistmetn in the regular army was prohibited to men of, draft age, under the new rules.

North Carolina Fell Short. Volunteers to the regular army since declaration of war in April now number 337,247, exceeding by 153,349 the number called for by President Wilson to bring the regulars to war strength. Ten states failed to supply their quota. They included Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia

The thousands of men who volunin the past few days and were

Washington, Dec. 15 .- Inability of examination and other details could not

Questionnaires Mailed Out.

in sixty days. There will be no further call of the draft men until the classificationss are

THREE HUNDRED RESERVE OFFICES AT CHARLOTTE

Charlotte, Dec. 15 .- Nearly 300 new y commissioned reserve officer,s graduates of the second series of officers' training camps, arrived at Camp Greene today and were assigned to regular army regiments. The number assigned varied between 20 and

RICAN SELECTMEN

rejected because of the breaking down vices received from Washington toof the recruiting system will be ac- day announced the establishment of These reports, which included that of cepted, Secretary Baker today having a cantonment here for the etnire 13,- Colonel House, will be supplemented ordered that all qualified applicants 000 men to be drafted into the nationwho presented themselves before noon al army. The date for the cantontoday be accepted even though their ment's establishment was not specified.

he would supply householders first even if it forced industries to close down. Reports from New York today told of widespread suffering in the city and BE BROUGHT HERE AN ECONOMIC UNIT

cause there is no coal to be had and the Government Assures Godwin Dis- Inter-Allied Council, Formed in tribution Will be Through Port of Wilmington

also threatened with suspension be- COWAN'S HAND WAS IN IT O. T. CROSBY PRESIDENT

TO WARM UP NEW YORK Industrial Agent of City Urged Im- Assistant Secretary of United States portance of Wilmington as Distributing Point for Government Shipments of Nitrate.

only will nitrate of soda soon be fur- the United States treasury, was elected other subjects. 100,000 tons. With this tonnage at the nished the farmers, but that a large president. amount of it will be moved through

the port of Wilmington. The government will sell it to the farmers at cost, ten million dollars in London today of the inter-allied being provided by congress in the council by election of Assistant Secrefood bill for that purpose; and that a tary Crosby, of the treasury, as presi- the council decided to do with referlarge part of the shipments will be ing the fruition of the plan advanced onel House said the deliberations were made through the port of Wilmington by Secretary McAdoo soon after the concerned primarily with the ecoshows plainly that the government has United States entered the war for bind- nomic situation. He declared what had commenced to recognize the importits transportation to New York, ance of North Carolina's chief, sea-

Mr. Cowan's Efforts. Several months ago Mr. J. H. Cowan, Bernard Baruch. industrial agent of the Wilmington council will consider such questions as cuss war aims while abroad. In his Chamber of Commerce, pressed this the most effective use of credits ad- estimation, he declared, one person's matter before the shipping board and vanced by the United States to her al- opinion was as good as another's as to other officials, and both Tar Heel sen- lies, priority of the allies' material what Russia might be expected to do. ators and Representative Godwin were needs which can be supplied in this Gathering of data in preparation for active in their support, as they recog- country, and in a general way the pool- the eventual peace conference was nized that the matter was vital to the ing of economic resources to make the purely incidental and entirely aside (Continued On Page Two)

BELIEVES PILOT ON THE IMO BLAMELESS

Were Not Given by Him

Pilot On Munitions Vessel Which Exploded, Causing the Halifax Disaster, Testifies at Government Inquiry.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 15 .- The signals given by the steamer Imo just before she crashed into the French munitions steamer Mont Blanc, causing an exgram came today from the national fuel gian relief ship, according to the firm "Pribrity order is in course of prep- | Mont Blanc, expressed in his testi- of the construction work. killed in the explosion, was a careful he superior court. He is to make an in the south by going far beyond that of coast artillery; Major General Wil- This means that the department has and experienced pilot, Mackay said, liam Crozier, chief of ordnance, and actually set in motion the machinery and could not have given the orders College, all to be played in Atlanta, are I have never known better and more The pledges were made good by Major General Enoch H. Crowder, pro- to give rush orders for coal to be de- which Mackay claimed sent the Imo included in next season's football intelligent team work. There has livered to the Norfolk Southern for its crashing into the munitions vessel. | schedule of Georgia Tech, announced been no confusion of purpose, no Describing the events leading up tonight by the Athletic council. Tech slackening in pursuit of the objects (Continued on Page Two.)

With the putting into effect of the new draft regulations today the first five per cent of the questionnaires was mailed to draft men. At the same time nounced that the huge task of classifying the 9,000,000 men of draft age questionably would be finished with-

TO BE TRAINED AT HOME

San Juan, P. R., Dec. 15 .- Official ad-

in uniform and the people as a whole."

nances and Purchases

London, to Take Up War Fi-

Treasury Will Cast the Deciding

Vote on Any Question

Which is Tied.

London, Dec. 15 .- The inter-allied Washington, Dec. 15.—Representa- council which is to take up war pur- and thus every one had a specific task tive Godwin has been assured by the chases and finance met in London today. to accomplish. These department of agriculture that not Oscar T. Crosby, assistant secretary of dealt with food embargo, finance and

REGARDED AS FRUITION OF

Washington, Dec. 15 .- Organization cordially." mission in the United States headed by the United States. The inter-allied

war more efficient. As head of the council which fh. sion. clude sone representative from each of the principal allies, Mr. Crosby will not vote except in tied disputes, and consequently will hold the balance of pow! House said: ed for the United States. His selection don or Paris indefinitely, probably for admirably. he period of the war.

House and his mission to Europe near- entry into the war—have made a highly two months ago, and since then has ly favorable impression." Thinks Signals to the Mont Blanc been studying allied financial needs in London and Paris.

quantities or supplies to be sought to such conferences.

BUILD GOVERNMENT PLANTS FOR EXPLOSIVES MANUFACTURE

has been paid out.

explosive plants to supplement the present output of private manufacturers are to be built in the immediwas announced tonight by Secretary portionment and the following tele- by Pilot Hayes, in charge of the Bel- ate future, it was disclosed tonight in an announcement by Secretary Baker of the appointment of Daniel C. Jackbelief of Francis Mackay, pilot on the ling, of San Francisco, to take charge

> Tech Football Schedule. son, V. P. I. and North Carolina State them. In all my experience of men,

AMERICAN MISSIUN COMPLETED TASK

'Has Been Successfully and Satisfactorily Done," Colonel House Announces

Influence of America Paramount in England and France.

Morale There is Fine

HE IS BACK FROM EUROPE

New York, Dec. 15 .- What the American mission was sent to accomplish in the inter-allied war conference in Paris "has been successfully and satisfactorily done," was the message brought to the American people by Col. E. M. House, head of the mission, who returned to the United States today with four of his colleagues. The return of the party was void of ostentation.

After advising the press of the mis-

sion's arrival, Colonel House motored to his home where he later received newspaper men and anounced that the mission's reports already had been despatched by special messenger to the state department at Washington. President Wilson. He said he would go to Washington Monday. America's Influence Paramount.

"In England and France the influence of the United States is paramount," said Colonel House. "In both countries the morale is splendid-the best I have observed on any of my three trips abroad since the begin-

"You mean the morale of the fightng forces?" Colonel House was ask-

"No, I mean the morale of the men

he replied. "Their determination to win without thought of the cost is admirable." Work Quickly Completed. Through the elimination of speechmaking and entertainment, both of a public and private nature, Colonel House said the inter-allied war conference accomplished its full purpose

pleted its work in four weeks' timetwo weeks being spent in London and two weeks in Paris. The prime ministers of Great Britain, France and Italy and Colonel House, together with their military

he said, the supreme war council, an

outgrowth of these deliberations, com-

aides, were the only ones participating in the supreme war council. membership on various committees

"The council brought things to a focus-up to that time there was no co-ordination and things were not going on very well," said the Colonel. SECRETARY M'ADOO'S PLAN "Every one worked well, hard and

No Radically Different Measures. In reply to questions as to what dent, was regarded by officials as met- ence to various military matters, Coling the allies into an economic unit. | been decided upon with reference to Another phase of the American plan this situation would not mean the inwas carried out months ago by the troduction of any measures "radically creation of an allied purchasing com- different" from those now operative in

from the main purpose of the mis-

Pershing Doing Admirably. Asked regarding the progress of General Pershing's work, Colonel

"His task is really more will necessitate his remaining in Lon- than the people know, but he is doing Our men-our fighting men and those who have been sent Mr. Crosby accompanied Colonel abroad on other missions since our

American representation at any further councils of an inter allied nature Regular reports have been made to was entirely a matter for President Secretary McAdoo and on these have Wilson's decision, Colonel House been based estimates of the amount of stated, and he knew nothing of the credits the allies will need from the president's intentions respecting the United States in the future and the return of himself or other delegates

Accompanying Colonel House on his The United States already has ex-return today were General Tasker H. tended aggregate credits of \$3,882,900,- Bliss, Vance C. McCormick, chairman 000 to the allies and about \$3,500,000,000 of the war trade board; Bainbridge Colby, of the United States shipping board, and Thomas N. Perkins, of the priority board. Oscar T. Crosby, assistant secretary of the treasury; Dr. A. E. Taylor, representing the food Washington, Dec. 15.-Government administration, and Paul D. Cravath remained in London, Colonel House said, primarily to complete some de-

tails "respecting priority matters." Tribute to Fellow Members. Colonel House paid a tribute to his fellow members of the mission in this

"I wish to record my appreciation of the individual work of the members of this mission. Whatever success it Atlanta, Dec. 15 .- Games with David- has had as a force for good is due to (Continued On Page Two)