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WEATHER FORECAST:

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RUSSIANS WINNING ON EXTREMITIES OF LINE?

WEST SIEGE WORK PERSISTS

Russians Claim Defeat of Germans and Austrians at the North and South Ends of Battle Fronts.

OUTCOME AT WARSAW STILL PROBLEMATICAL

Presence of Kaiser in West Indicates He Considers Operations There More Critical Than in East.

London, Dec. 22.—Only at the northern and southern extremities of the immense battle line in the east are marked changes noted today; in the western theater the stubborn laborious siege operations are persisting. Briefly, this sums up this war situation in Europe as far as can be told from the official communications given out by the various war departments.

The ultimate outcome of the German army's advance on Warsaw is problematical, as the decisive conflict in this operation remains to be fought. Although the Russian center had been forced to retire it has received reinforcements and is holding a line along the Bzura river to its junction with the Vistula. North of the Vistula river, if reports from Petrograd are to be credited, the Germans have been whipped and pushed back across their frontier until their line in behind Soldau, which is midway between Lautenburg and Niedenburg in East Prussia.

To the south, according to the contentions of the Russian reports, the movements of the Austrian army in the Carpathians has been defeated, simultaneously, with the defeat of the garrison of the Przemyśl fortress which was hurled back after attempting a sortie against the investing forces.

The British press comments on General Joffre's order for a general advance by the allied armies to drive the invaders out of France and Belgium, as published from Berlin. The papers say that while they are unable to vouch for the authenticity of this document, it seems to coincide with the fact that the allies are exerting pressure along the entire German front. Emperor William, according to the latest advices, has returned to the western front from Berlin, which seems to indicate to British observers that the Kaiser regards the operations in the west as more important than those in the east at the present time.

Gains at Various Places. Paris, Dec. 22.—The official communication given out by the French war office yesterday is as follows: "During the day of December 20 there were no events of any great importance in Belgium, if exception is made of some progress which we have made in the vicinity of Lambertyde at Georges and at a point south of the Inn of Corteker, which is a suburb of Bixchoote. We have occupied some houses in Waretzen on the south of Zillebeke. "Between the Vosges and the Alsace we

have occupied a forest near the route between Noulette and Souchez and have also taken possession of some of the enemy's first line trenches along the highway between Notre de Lorette and St. Loos.

"The enemy has bombarded Arras. "Our heavy artillery has silenced repeatedly the artillery of the enemy east of Carney and east of Albert. "Our artillery has also demolished German trenches and hurled head over heels two cannon of a battery near Hom, southeast of Carnoy. Our heavy artillery has secured for us distinct advantages on the Alsace and in the section of Rheims.

"In Champagne, in the region of Prose and Perthes, as well as in the Argonne, we have made gains along our entire front, particularly so to the northeast of Beaumont where we won 1200 yards and took trenches. "In the forest of Legurie we have blown up four mines saps and established ourselves in the position thus made.

"Between the Argonne and the Meuse we have made progress along our whole front, particularly in the vicinity of Varennes where we advanced about 500 yards. "In the region of Bethincourt on the right of the Meuse we have gained at La Croupe; at one point over two kilometers; northwest of Brabant and the forest of Consencove.

"We have made slight progress in the forest of Deschliers, northeast of the port of Coyon."

Repulse French Attack.

Berlin. (By wireless to London) Dec. 22.—A German official statement given out yesterday says: "The French attack near Neupport was repulsed. "We attacked the positions of the Anglo-Indian troops at two points and stormed and captured their trenches, dislodging them with heavy losses. We captured one piece of field artillery, five machine guns and 270 prisoners, among them 10 officers.

"The trenches lost by us on December 18 at Notre de Lorette have been recaptured. "In the neighborhood of Souhan and Chalons the French troops yesterday delivered a fierce attack and in one place penetrated our positions. "The fierce attack to the northwest of Verdun has completely failed."

THINKS GOETHALS TREATED BRITISH CAPTAINS HARSHLY

FEW CABLEGRAMS ARE DELAYED BY CENSORS

Are Rarely Stopped Although British Government Handles Large Numbers.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Censorship on an unprecedented scale is in operation now over the complicated system of cables connecting Europe with America. After some friction, the machinery created by the British government is handling an average of 50,000 cablegrams each day, and even this figure does not represent the full volume of business, because many cablegrams, from their privileged character, are not subject to censorship.

An official statement of the business of the British censors obtained here makes it appear that in this great mass of business few cablegrams have been delayed or stopped. It is explained that when a properly addressed message is destined for the United States it is stopped, the censor invariably informs the American ambassador, with an explanation of the reason.

CHILE AGAIN PROTESTS AGAINST VIOLATIONS

Complains at Certain Actions of German and British War Squadrons.

Washington, Dec. 22.—After a searching investigation of activities of the German fleet in the southern Pacific recently, Chile has protested formally to Germany against alleged German violations of neutrality in Chilean waters.

GERMANS RESTORE RAILROAD TRAFFIC

Repairing Lines, Bridges and Tunnels Which French Destroyed in Retreat.

Amsterdam, Dec. 22.—The Telegraph learns from Berlin that the Germans have restored the railroad communication from Charleville, in the department of Ardennes, opposite Metz, to Phelms, and from Hiron in Alsace to Montmedy in the department of Meuse, about 25 miles north of Verdun which the French destroyed in their retreat from this part of France. The railroad to Gize in the department of Ardennes on the Belgian border, according to the same dispatch, will be opened shortly. Bridges over the Meuse here, at Lumes, and Donchery, all southeast of Metz, are again opened. The blocked tunnel near Montmedy and Mohon, the last named south of Metz, also will soon be in a condition to be utilized, it is stated.

The British Government Sends Note of Inquiry to the State Department.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Great Britain has addressed a note of inquiry to the state department in regard to charges against that government which Colonel Goethals had admitted were baseless against the conduct of certain British colliers in the waters of the canal zone. The communication implied the British ship captains were harshly treated.

SCALE OF HIRE FOR COMMANDEERED SHIPS

London, Dec. 22.—The scale of hire for vessels chartered by the British government for use as armed cruisers, troopships, hospital ships and other purposes has been drawn up by an admiralty sub-committee, and from these rates it is possible to make a rough calculation of the earnings in three months of some of the biggest vessels which are well known in the Atlantic trade. They are as follows:

| Vessel | Tons | Speed. | In 3 mo. (knots) |
|--------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|
| Aquitania | 45,647 | 23 | \$855,850 |
| Caronia | 19,400 | 18 | 308,400 |
| Carmania | 19,400 | 18 | 308,400 |
| Carnegie | 21,925 | 17 | 315,000 |
| Tunisian | 19,576 | 16 | 188,640 |
| Empress of Britain | 14,189 | 20 | 241,500 |

In addition the government is recommended to pay the cost of preparing for vessels for state purposes, for time lost between end of charter period till restoration of vessel in normal work and for higher wages.

GERMANS ARE SHORT OF SOME SUPPLIES

Copenhagen, Dec. 22.—Agents of the commissary department of the German army, who are here purchasing supplies, admit that Germany's shortage in some respects is serious. They state that Germany would be glad to release all prisoners of war because of the difficulty of providing supplies for them.

The agents find their task here made difficult by the Danish prohibition against export of many articles. They have succeeded, however, in purchasing large quantities of meal, which may still be exported to Germany. They would like to get a million pairs of boots and shoes, but the list of prohibitions includes all articles made of leather or hide.

AGED MAN SHOT DEAD IN ROW

W. B. Grant Slain Early Today in Southside by E. M. Jarrett, Who Then Surrenders.

KILLING IS WITNESSED BY SEVERAL PERSONS

Slayer and Victim Had Occupied Adjoining Business Houses Not Far From Scene of Tragedy.

William B. Grant, aged 72, was shot and almost instantly killed at 7:30 o'clock this morning in the store of the Blue Ridge Mercantile company on Southside avenue, by E. M. Jarrett who at once surrendered to Patrolman Charlie Pinner, on duty at the Southern Railway passenger station and is now held without bond in the city jail, pending the outcome of the coroner's inquest, which will be held this afternoon at the undertaking establishment of Hare and company, on Biltmore avenue.

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LESS WHISKEY IN THE CAPITAL

About 1000 Gallons Less Than in 1913 Represented in Raleigh Police Court Blue Monday.

SHIPMENTS SHOW FALLING OFF TOO

Governor Craig Is Coming to Asheville for Few Days Before the Legislature Meets.

(By W. T. Bost.)

Raleigh, Dec. 22.—The forty defendants who stood up and answered charges in the city court yesterday made an imposing list of drunks and disorderlies, but withal they represented about 1,000 fewer gallons of whiskey than the same ante-Christmas Monday did last year.

The express and railroad offices indicate a vast falling off in the whiskey trade for the close of the year. It is declared by the receivers of the wet goods that more than 5,000 packages were received last year on whiskey day than this year.

Further examination shows a great falling off in the number who have drunk and fallen down. The police records were comparatively without blemish until Saturday. The large city prison was congested this morning.

Governor Craig said today that he will finish his message to the legislature this week and early on the next he will go to Asheville to spend a few days before returning to Raleigh to feet the incoming body. He has been working on his state paper many days and has it almost in shape to present to the legislature.

The Episcopals of Christ church and the Church of the Good Shepherd announced nearly \$11,000 as the result of their great canvass yesterday for funds to prosecute the work in all departments of the church. Each congregation has recently put a small fortune into new buildings, but the congregation responded handsomely to the appeal for funds to diminish the parish debts and to extend the work into all fields.

Gregory Writes Bickett.

Attorney General Bickett has received a letter from United States Attorney General T. W. Gregory acknowledging receipt of the letter of Mr. Bickett several days ago approving him of the status of the Cape Fear and Yadkin valley dismemberment sixteen years ago.

Mr. Gregory's letter was a simple announcement of having received the North Carolina attorney general's letter. In explaining the delay in response, Mr. Gregory said that his department is very greatly crowded with work now and that it is difficult to get to it soon. The letter was very satisfactory.

The contents of Mr. Bickett's letter will furnish long speculation here. The case made out by the state through the aid of A. L. Brooks, of Greensboro, is considered strong, but the mid-term in national politics is deemed somewhat against quick action, to say nothing of the hundreds of controversies of similar nature that annulment of this sale might create. But there is not the slightest doubt here that this purchase was violative of every court ruling made to fit the case.

Chairman E. L. Travis, of the corporation commission, is working on his letter dealing with the subject of taxation and embodying his views which he means to present to the legislature when it meets in June.

Mr. Travis has had many state tax systems before him in this investigation and believes that he will be able to assist the legislature in working out an improvement over the present system.

Professor Collier Cobb and Austin H. Carr of the university, stopped here on their return from a long tramp in some of the lower counties and left for the university last night.

They admitted having walked a few thousand miles but declared unprofessionally to say how many. Professor Cobb recalled when prodded about his pet "pud" that sixty boys that he has trained to death and doped with his geology have done his things since leaving and have actually eaten the "pud." General Julian S. Carr's youngest son, who has been tramping with him, is before graduation a real business man and maker of a fine grade of flour.

Charles H. Anderson, candidate for the postoffice has congratulated Bart M. Gatling, who referred Mr. Anderson to the statement of Congressman Pou denying that he has made any recommendation in the postoffice case for Raleigh.

Mr. Gatling likewise congratulated Anderson on his election.

HILLES EXPECTS MORE FOREST PART VICTORY

Predicts Great Republican Success in 1916 and Gives Reasons for His Predictions.

"LOGICAL DEDUCTION" FROM LAST ELECTION

Reviews Conditions as He Sees Them in Various States Which Are Now Democratic.

New York, Dec. 22.—Foreseeing a sweeping republican victory throughout the country in 1916, in which labor and business will join hands to rebuke the democratic tariff policy, Charles D. Hilles, chairman of the republican national committee, says the republicans will capture both houses of congress. He also predicts the election of republican governors in many states that have hitherto been undisputedly democratic.

Mr. Hilles is of the opinion that the tariff will be the issue and that the people will speak in no uncertain terms their opinion of a tariff policy which he says has reduced wages, stifled industries and caused want throughout the country.

"An analysis of the results of the last election," said Mr. Hilles, "shows conclusively that the republican party will return to power in 1916. Not only will a republican president be elected, unless there is a revision of feeling in the meantime, but the party will gain control of both senate and house. It requires no gift of prophecy to assert this. It is a logical deduction from the recent election.

"The issue in 1914 was the tariff, and every state where the effect of the Underwood bill had time to be felt went republican. Every great manufacturing state and every great labor center repudiated the democratic party and voted condemnation of its record since it came into full control of the government. The disastrous effects of the new tariff have not yet been fully felt in the great agricultural states of the west, but even there the reaction against democracy was unmistakable.

"The issue in 1916 will be squarely on the tariff and on the legislation of the democratic party. The revolt against democracy is not confined to business men. Labor indicated very clearly in the last election that it understood its own prosperity is inextricably wound up with the prosperity of business, and that unemployment and reduced wages inevitably follow democratic tariff tinkering.

The Wilson administration has been essentially an anti-business administration, modifying its policy only where legislation might include the south into adverse influence. Because the democrats increased their majority in the senate in the last election they are inclined to believe that they can save the upper house in 1916 from the wreck they foresee. Their belief is founded on hope and not on fact.

"Is there any doubt that New York will send a republican to succeed Mr. O'Governor? The result of the last election shows clearly that a republican Senator will succeed the present representative of the Empire state in the upper house.

Maine is back in the republican column, and a republican senator is sure to succeed Mr. Johnson. New Jersey returned to the republican column in emphatic fashion in November, and no one will succeed himself or be superseded by a democrat.

"The election of Mr. Harding in Ohio this year by more than 50,000 is a clear sign that Senator Fomeroy will be retired two years hence and his place be taken by a republican. Senator Meyers, of Montana, voted to place wool on the free list despite vigorous protest from every quarter of his state. Is there any possible chance that he will be re-elected after two years more of free wool?

"Senator Pittman, of Nevada, will be succeeded by a republican. Mr. Pittman has not the prestige nor the money nor the long service of Senator Newlands, and yet Mr. Newlands was returned to the senate this year by only thirty-eight votes, after the hardest campaign he has ever made.

"West Virginia is sure to go republican in 1916. Senator Poindexter, of Washington, is the only progressive in the senate and he is sure to be succeeded by a republican. Washington in 1914 elected a republican senator and republicans from every congressional district.

"Thus far we can see a certain gain of eight seats, which, with a republican vice president would give control of the senate. But in Maryland and Nebraska, where there are democratic factional fights, the republican chances are excellent. There is good fighting ground in Arizona, Missouri and Tennessee, and it is a modest claim to say that one republican will be elected from these five states.

"The republican party has only to insure a sweeping victory in 1916. The public has sickened of the nostrums and panaceas exploited in the last few years and want sanity, honesty and efficiency in public office. These the republican party can supply, and that party only."

MORE FOREST FIRES DANGER

Season of 1914 Carried Greatest Danger From Forest Fires Since the Forests Were Established.

DROUGHT AND OTHER CONDITIONS WORSE

Loss of Merchantable Timber Was Comparatively Small—Most of Fires Were Soon Extinguished.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The season of 1914, according to the officials of the forest service, carried greater danger from fire to the national forests than any year since the establishment of the national forests. To meet this emergency and to prevent great loss of public property, the department of agriculture was obliged to exceed the amount appropriated for fire protection and incur a deficiency of \$249,242. The conditions of the drought and other factors of forest fire hazard were said to be worse than in 1910, when the disastrous Idaho fires occurred.

Weather bureau reports show that in most of the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast region last winter's snows were much below the normal, and as a result there was an early spring and an early drying out of the forests. In western Montana and northern Idaho there were forest fires in considerable numbers by the end of May and they continued until October. In California, where there is normally a very long season of drought, the fire season started in some portions five weeks earlier than usual, and in the southern part of the state the fire danger was still great at the end of November. A long dry season, sustained periods of high temperature, recurring hard and steady winds, and, in certain places, unusually hot, dry nights, rendered the forests exceedingly inflammable and the problem of fire prevention unusually difficult.

More Than Six Thousand Fires. The total number of fires during the season of 1914 which threatened the national forests and which had to be handled by the protective organization of the forest service were 6112, or about 1000 more than occurred in 1910. This number represents the fires reported up to December 1. At that time reports indicated that there was still a dangerous condition in southern California and in certain portions of the national forests of the east. The service says that the total for the year will be increased by the fires in these regions during December.

The most serious conditions are reported from western Montana and northern Idaho and on the Pacific slope. The weather conditions in the central and southern Rocky mountain regions were more nearly normal. As a consequence only 15 per cent of the total number of all national forest fires occurred in these regions and they were handled without difficulty and with very small loss of property.

Of the entire 6112 fires which threatened the national forests, 81 per cent were extinguished by the protective organization before they had covered 10 acres. The percentage of fires that burned over more than 10 acres was smaller than in any previous year.

While detailed reports have not yet been received appraising the exact loss to the government through the forest fires, a preliminary estimate shows that the loss of merchantable timber will probably not exceed \$400,000. In 1910 the corresponding estimate of loss was nearly \$16,000,000, but later estimates materially reduced the amount. Through the work of the protective force the fires this year were largely confined to old burns and to less heavily timbered areas. The loss to the government through the destruction of young trees which had sprung up in these openings is larger than the actual loss to green timber.

Region of Greatest Danger. In Montana and Idaho alone, it is said that the value of specific bodies of timber which were threatened by the approximately 2000 fires which started and were put out, aggregated the enormous sum of over \$59,000,000. It was in this section that the largest amount of money had to be spent to prevent a recurrence of the great disaster of 1910. In Oregon and Washington, the 1200 fires which were handled by the department threatened upwards of \$24,000,000 worth of timber. And these figures, according to the department experts, do not include the value of non-merchantable timber and young growth on about 5,000,000 acres of land, and several million dollars worth of ranch and other private property which lay in the path of the fire.

(Continued on page 2.)

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