

The Asheville Gazette News.

WEATHER FORECAST: PROBABLY RAIN.

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ASHEVILLE, N. C., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 23, 1914.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

POLAND IS STILL SCENE OF DESPERATE FIGHTING

COLD CAUSING MUCH SUFFERING

Germans Claim to Have Forced the Russian Line Which, However, Has Been Straightened.

REINFORCEMENTS FROM EAST TO WEST, REPORT

May Indicate Germans Are Preparing for Renewed Offensive in France and Flanders.

London, Dec. 23.—The eighty-mile battle front in Russian Poland, west of Warsaw, where the Germans and Russians are at grips on the banks of the Buzna, Rawka and Pilica rivers, continues to be the scene of the most desperate fighting in either the eastern or western theaters of war. When the weather conditions are taken into consideration, it is possible to appreciate the suffering which the combatants are undergoing. Nevertheless, the conflict continues in full force. Each side has suffered enormous losses.

Although the Germans contend that they have forced the Russian line, it is a fact that the Russian front has been straightened, and it is difficult to visualize which of the contenders has the strategic advantage.

Again there comes trickling through from Holland reports of a vast movement of German troops from the east to the west. It is reported in Amsterdam that thousands of German soldiers have passed through Aix-la-Chapelle to the north of France. This action, if true, may be the forerunner of a renewed German offensive in the west or it may simply indicate the intention of the Germans to offset the reinforcements which Great Britain has been pouring into France.

As the situation now stands in the west there is assurance that the allies are more on the offensive than defensive and that they are making slight gains from day to day.

It is believed in London, that notwithstanding the failure of the plan for an armistice during the Christmas season, some sort of lull will set in on Christmas day itself. The London papers have signified their intention of not getting out issues on Christmas day and the official press bureau has announced that it will suspend operations from the afternoon of December 24 to the afternoon of December 26.

Thousands of tons of Christmas presents have been sent to the front. Their distribution and enjoyment is another argument for the suspension of hostilities on Christmas day.

Paris, Dec. 23.—The following official communication was issued by the French war department yesterday: "Between the sea and the Lys during the day of December 21 there were no other than artillery engagements. Between the Lys and the Aisne we have repulsed attacking columns endeavoring to come out from Crayac and our troops have taken several houses in Blangy.

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"In Champagne and in the Argonne, in the vicinity of Souain, there have been violent bayonet engagements. We have made perceptible progress, here occupying in the suburbs of Perthes les Hurles three German positions representing front of entrenchments 1500 yards long. To the northeast of Beaucourt we have consolidated our positions which we occupied on December 20 and have occupied all the trenches in the vicinity of Mount Calvaire.

"In the forest of Legurrie our progress has continued. An attack at St. Hubert has been repulsed. In the forest of Balants we have recaptured about 2-3 of the ground which we had lost in previous engagements.

"Between the Argonne and the Meuse we have made slight progress in the suburbs of Vanuola. North of the forest of Malancourt we successfully encountered the barbed wire entanglements of the enemy and took possession of certain trenches where the enemy maintained themselves.

"On the right bank of the Meuse in the forest of Consenoy we first lost and then recovered, after a lively fight, trenches which we had captured on December 20.

"On the heights of the Meuse and in the Vosges there is nothing to report.

"An attack on Ametz and nearby trenches was made by our troops and we gained ground in this direction.

"At Lihons three attacks of the enemy were repulsed.

"We have made slight gains to the east and west of Tracy-le-Val and our artillery delivered an efficacious fire on the chateau of Nouproun.

"In the section of the Aisne and in the vicinity of Rheims there have been artillery engagements."

THREE LONG TERMERS MAKE THEIR GET-A-WAY

Among the Three is John Cameron, Serving for Murder of Raeford Police Chief.

(By W. T. Bost.) Raleigh, Dec. 23.—Three of the state's long termers escaped from the penitentiary farm yesterday morning according to a telephone message to Warden T. P. Sale, and until late evening nothing had been heard from them.

They are men of history, John A. Cameron is serving twenty years for the killing of the chief of police in Raeford in 1913, and Irish Jimmy, crackman whose real name is William Dunn, was up for eight years on conviction of blowing open a Gastonia safe. The third was Joe Zachary, a Jackson county prisoner, who was serving three years for murder in the second degree.

The message carried no detail. Cameron was steward at the farm and had held the position since May, 1913. He is a man of intelligence and of better make-up than the average prisoner. He is a fellow of fine appearance weighing nearly 200 pounds slightly under six feet. Irish Jimmy is a Brooklyn man, a very short, fat fellow of five feet, two inches. He is 47 years old. Zachary is twenty-three and also a big, tall 200 pounder.

All the men were white. This installment makes eight within the last six weeks who have escaped from the farm prison. The number at large now is six, two having been captured. A reward of \$25 each for the capture and return of these fellows is offered by the state.

HOLIDAY FOR SOUTHERN TICKETERS UP TOWN

The city ticket office of the Southern Railway will be closed Christmas day according to an announcement made yesterday. This action is taken in order to allow the employees an opportunity to observe the holiday.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH CHILDREN TO ENTERTAIN

Members of the Christian church will give a Christmas entertainment this evening at 8 o'clock for the Sunday school boys and girls of that church.

Bomb Explodes

Rome, Dec. 23.—A small bomb exploded in the courtyard of the Basilica of San Clemente, the titular church of Cardinal O'Connell of Boston. Another bomb that failed to explode was found. Windows of the church were shattered.

GERMANS INVADE PORTUGAL COLONY

Second Invasion of African Possessions—Small Portuguese Force Retreats.

Lisbon, (By way of Paris), Dec. 23.—The Germans have again invaded Angola, the Portuguese African colony, according to an announcement made in the chamber of deputies today by the minister of colonies. He stated that the Germans had made a fresh attack on the military post at Naulila in the province of Angola. The commander of the post, Colonel Rochace, stated that he had only a small force and that he judged it best to retreat and secure reinforcements.

The first invasion of the Portuguese colony by the Germans was late in October, according to a report from Laurena Marques in East Africa, a small German cavalry force arrived at the post and asked for an interview with three Germans were killed. Berlin issued a denial of the reported invasion.

A report from Lisbon stated that 3000 men were sent from Portugal to the African colony in September and October, and in November preparations were made for the dispatching of 4000 additional troops. This action on the part of Portugal was caused by the report that the Germans were arming the natives and were having them trained by German officers for the purpose of invading Angola.

BIG BLACK BEAR GOES VISITING NEAR MARION

Unwelcome Guest at Several Farms Where Bruin Feasts on Nice Fat Calves.

Special to The Gazette-News.

Marion, Dec. 23.—A large, black bear from the Black mountains, driven to the low country by hunger caused by the extremely cold weather made a raid upon several farms within a mile of Marion yesterday. He succeeded in his search for food by capturing several fine veals, thereby proving himself to be a connoisseur even when tempted by hunger. The presence of bruin in the community called forth every Nimrod in Marion and the surrounding country. Hacks, horses, and other conveyances were called into service, and many took to the country afoot. Every corner to town had a story to tell of the bear's appearance along the roadside. A large crowd with dogs and guns chased the bear back and forth from Sevier to Greene, but without success. Finally, bruin, having furnished the community with enough sport for one day, and having secured enough food to satisfy his hunger until the snow disappears from the mountains, evidently made his way back towards Mitchell's peak, where he soon became lost in the wilds of the mountains.

DANISH DANCERS WEEP; PARIS SLIPPERS LOST

Copenhagen, Dec. 23.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Girls of the Royal Danish Ballet are placed in a serious dilemma. They cannot get ballet shoes from Paris. The ballet shoes manufactured here are so heavy that the girls cannot dance with them. If the conditions do not improve, the ballet master will be compelled to arrange ballets with naked foot-dances.

ELKS GIVE FUND TO CITY'S NEEDY

Adjutant John Routers, local bar racks, Salvation Army, received yesterday a check from the Asheville Lodge of Elks for the sum of \$50, to be used for the purpose of purchasing supplies for the poor. The Star market donated through the Elks 50 pounds of meat for the relief of the suffering. A donation of 25 pounds of sausage was made by William J. Cooke through the Elks also.

North Carolina Postmasters.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The following North Carolina postmasters were appointed yesterday: Brantton, Duncombe county, James B. Bradsher; Gen. Buncombe county, John B. Hill; Grandview, Cherokee county, Glen C. Davis; Teague, Haywood county, R. Weston Green; Vulture, Northampton county, Carolina L. Vincent.

A PROTEST ON INSURANCE RATE

No Further Objections From Fayetteville Underwriters Association Concerning the Reductions.

LOWER 1-YEAR RATE, HIGHER 3-YEAR RATE

Britton's Backers Are Complaining of H. G. Guley's "Pernicious Activity" in Postoffice Fight.

(By W. T. Bost.)

Raleigh, Dec. 23.—Insurance Commissioner James R. Young declares he has received notice of no further protest in the recent insurance reductions than that of the Fayetteville Underwriters association's action of a few days ago.

The Fayetteville people demur to the proposals because they change the whole system of writing the three year policy. Under the old form of making out policies, the person who was able to pay the three-year bill received fire protection at just twice the regular annual rate. When the men higher up met they could see no real reason for reducing the rate so radically and were led to see that if they could afford such cuts, either the annual rate was too high or that the three-year rate was too low. They accordingly raised the three-year rate to two and a half times the regular rate of one year and cut the annual rate to eighty-five per cent of the old rate. A policy that formerly cost \$10 a year now costs \$8.50 and the 3-year policy now is sold at \$25.

The value of the reduction is its meeting the man of small means and is a concession to an immemorial protest against the high rates that first assailed the poorer man. Under the new system, the poor man gets the immediate reduction of 15 cents on the hundred. He can buy insurance even at the two and a half times the annual premium to slight advantage, but does not impoverish himself to meet the original charge.

Insurance men believe the recent reductions are so substantial that the incoming legislature will see no need of taking up the investigation which the report of the legislative committee might have projected. The smaller local companies declare these rates are for North Carolina and are offered as a desire to meet the demands of the state. The next general assembly will have many companies here ready to put themselves between the lower rates and any project to make them still lower.

After Bailey's Deputy.

Backers of Edward E. Britton in the postoffice contest declare that charges are in the making against H. G. Guley, one of Collector J. W. Bailey's deputies with headquarters in Greensboro, the protest coming under Mr. Cleveland's famous term, "pernicious activity."

The quarrel that the anti-Guley men make is that he is energetically circulating a petition throughout the county asking support for Bart M. Gatling for the postmastership of Raleigh. Mr. Guley has been spending most of his time in Greensboro, but his return here recently set his foes upon his trail again. Prior to his going to Greensboro he had been very active in behalf of J. P. Stell, chief field deputy of Collector Bailey, though Mr. Stell had resigned and left the service. When the champion still smasher returned, Collector Bailey asked for charges if there were any, and Chief Stell resumed operations.

The Supreme court will today dispose of the Will Newsome murder case from Greens, wherein Newsome stands under death sentence and is asking the court to give a new trial, though the appeal was not perfected. Newsome has been in the state prison twelve months and will go to the governor in the event of failure to get a hearing. The court has not had a chance to hand down an opinion because the case has not come properly before it.

The last of the 1914 opinions will be handed down today and the court then takes a recess to January 13 when the unfinished cases will be settled. Another recess of three weeks will follow.

SANTA CLAUS HERE TONIGHT

Asheville's 2nd Municipal Christmas Festival to Be Held in Pack Square This Evening.

SPLENDID PROGRAM HAS BEEN PERFECTED

Music and Pictures in Keeping With Spirit of the Occasion and Presents for Children Are Features.

Asheville will celebrate its second municipal Christmas festival tonight and a splendid program has been perfected for that event. Pack square is parked with evergreens and the giant Christmas tree will be a blaze of glory tonight. The citizens have joined in the festive program generously making the event one of unity and splendor and it is planned that no child in Asheville who is able to attend the exercises will fail to get a present and none of the poor of the city who have let themselves be known will be overlooked by Santa Claus.

The program as given out by the executive committee for this evening's exercises, follows: Invocation at 7:45 will open the festival after which the crowd will sing: "Joy to the World." As this selection is being rendered seven pictures will be shown, the stereopticon slides carrying reproductions of famous paintings as follows: "Annunciation to Mary," "Mary and the Doves," "Visit of Mary to Elizabeth," "Madonna and Angels," "Madonna and Babe," "Annunciation to Shepherds."

Upon the close of the first song, the second number on the program, "O, Little Town of Bethlehem," will be sung and as the strains of this familiar hymn are heard, pictures will be thrown on the screen as follows: "Sistine Madonna," "Virgin and Angels," "Wise Men and Star," "Wise Men on Way to Bethlehem," "Holy Night," "Babe of Bethlehem," "Adoration of Wise Men."

"Silent Night, Holy Night," will be sung next with pictures being shown as follows: "Manger," "Babe of Bethlehem," "The Nativity," "Madonna of the Chair," "Flight into Egypt," "Baby Jesus Walking," "The Carpenter Shop."

"Madonna" will be presented upon the close of the song and as it fades from the screen Old Glory will be draped over the canvas as those in attendance upon the celebration sing: "America." The tree will be kept in darkness as the songs are being rendered, but as the canvas is covered by Old Glory, the switch which controls the hundreds of electric bulbs on the limbs of the tree will be pulled down and the giant of woodland will stand out as a tree of fire. Children will pass into the main entrance of the city hall where they will be presented with bags of good things to eat by the members of the fire department who have been named by Santa Claus to distribute presents among the boys and girls of the city.

Twelve baskets were placed at convenient points on the square for the placing of bundles of clothing and provisions which will be distributed among the poor of the city tomorrow through the charitable organizations of Asheville. A basket will be found in the center of the square near the clock and at other convenient points, including the city hall, Nichols' shoe store, Teague and Oates' drug store, Smith's drug store and Carmichael's pharmacy. Persons who carry bundles to the observance are requested to place them in these baskets, although cash donations will be taken by the ushers. Each of these will bear a white card, with the word "Usher" printed in black letters. Donors are requested to make contributions to one other than those who have such signs on their coats. Think of course, does not prevent making contributions to Mayor J. E. Rankin, the treasurer of the general committee, prior to tonight's gathering. Chairman C. H. Hones, of the ushers' committee this morning announced that the following have been named and will serve on the square tonight: Harry Theobald, E. C. Greene, B. George Barber, J. D. Earle, H. W. Sharp, A. C. Goodman, W. E. Reid, William Coleman, E. J. Orist, B. E. Greene, Cloyd Pannell, C. L. Rigler, L. N. Cranham, William Duncan, C. K. Hughes, P. C. Blackman, H. D. Craighton and Clarence B. Davis.

The ushers will meet at the city hall tonight at 7 o'clock to outline plans for the night's work. The following school girls are commended warmly by the committee for work done in preparing gift bags for the children: Miss Edith Lacey, Miss Blanche Dewport, Miss Edith Jones, Miss Clara Jackson, Miss Margaret Frady, Miss Evelyn Burton, Miss Alice Sorrell, Miss Irene Petrie, Miss Gertrude Nichols, Miss Laetia May Tomlin, Miss Helen Williams. (Continued on Page 11.)

DEFEAT FORCES OF PROHIBITION

BRIGGS STEPS DOWN, REPORT

Decision to Remove Postmaster at Raleigh Big Surprise to Mr. Briggs' Friends.

Gazette-News Bureau, Wyatt Building, Washington, Dec. 23.

Willis Granby Briggs, for nearly eight years postmaster at Raleigh, is to be removed from office immediately. Representative Pou has been asked to name his successor. Postmaster General Burleson decided to remove Mr. Briggs after he had read the report of a special postoffice inspector who had been sent to Raleigh to investigate the office. In his report the inspector charges Mr. Briggs with absenting himself from his office, "carelessness, gross negligence, failure to attend to his ordinary duties" and also with failure to oversee the weighing of the mails leaving his office.

Although Representative Pou was not prepared to say tonight whom he would recommend to succeed Mr. Briggs, it is generally believed that Bart M. Gatling will receive his O. K. The report coming from Raleigh Saturday that Gatling had been decided upon, though denied by both Senator Overman and Representative Pou, is believed to be pretty near the right dope. Senator Simmons left town for his New Bern home Saturday and no statement could be had from him.

The decision to remove Briggs from office was a great surprise to Postmaster Briggs' many friends in Washington. Though a republican he is held in the highest regard by democrats and republicans alike. Mr. Pou himself paid the Raleigh postmaster a high compliment in congress several years ago, when he declared that Briggs had conducted the cleanest campaign of any man who had ever opposed him for office.

Those who know Willis Briggs well do not believe he willfully neglected his duties. One of his political opponents stated several days ago that Briggs had made the best postmaster Raleigh has ever had. He was instrumental in putting into effect a system that not only received the commendation of the then postmaster general, Hitchcock, but was favorably commented upon by hundreds of patrons of the Raleigh office.

Mr. Briggs has always been allied with the Duncan faction of the republican party. Therefore he was bitterly fought by the other faction, and it is rumored here tonight that the charges preferred against Briggs may have originated with some of his political enemies in his own party.

Mr. Briggs was named postmaster at the state's capital by former President Roosevelt and reappointed by William Howard Taft, who succeeded the Rough Rider. His nomination was held up in the senate by Senator Carter, of Montana. The Montana senator was acting for Marion Butler, it is said. Both Senators Simmons and Overman favored Briggs over other republican aspirants for the office.

BRITISH SHIPS WIRELESS APPARATUS DISMANTLED

Action Taken at Panama Canal Zone for Sending Code Message.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Lieutenant Crenshaw, naval radio officer of the Panama canal zone, has cabled the navy department that the wireless apparatus on the British steamer Proteolian was dismantled by the police of the Panama canal zone on December 19, after the vessel had sent a code message.

COLONEL COHEN PUTS OUT FINE CALENDAR

Sanford H. Cohen, manager of the Greater western North Carolina Association, has prepared for distribution a very attractive calendar entitled "The Calendar of Cheer". It contains 84 pages of helpful thoughts printed in two colors by the Dodge Publishing company of New York. It is altogether artistic and will doubtless be a very popular means of advertising "The Land of the Sky."

Miss Huerta Weds. Barcelona, Via Paris, Dec. 23.—A daughter of General Victoriano Huerta, former president of Mexico, was married here Monday to General Queros, General Huerta's aid.

Hobson Resolution to Submit Prohibition Amendment to the State Legislatures Is Beaten.

197 FOR AND 189 AGAINST MEASURE

Two-thirds Vote Required to Adopt—Will Probably Not Be Pushed in the Senate.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Opponents of prohibition amendments predicted today that the defeat in the house of the Hobson resolution urging an amendment to the constitution, for national prohibition, meant that the issue was dead, so far as this session of congress is concerned. On the other hand, the supporters of the measure triumphantly point to the majority of eight votes in the show-down in the house last night and asserted that their expectations had been entirely fulfilled. They declared that the failure to adopt the resolution was only a temporary defeat and that they were prepared to continue the fight.

Although there is a similar resolution in the senate, introduced by Senator Sheppard, administration leaders expressed the opinion that it would not come to a vote because of the action in the house. Chairman Henry of the rules committee, who vigorously opposed the resolution, predicted that as a result of the resolution's defeat the question would not again be brought to the floor of the house as a national issue for 20 years. Prohibition leaders, including Representative Hobson, however, predicted that it would be an issue in the 1916 campaign.

Representatives of the national legislative committee of the Anti-Saloon league, in a statement today, declared that the temperance forces had reason to be gratified at the result of the vote in the house.

The final vote was reached about midnight after several hours of remarkable debate and after several amendments had been voted down. Party lines were shattered. Democratic Leader Underwood and Republican Leader Mann, who led the anti-prohibition forces, fought shoulder to shoulder in opposing the passage of the measure.

The final ballots showed the 356 members had voted on the issue—197 for and 189 against. The resolution failed of adoption by 61 votes, an affirmative vote of 258 being necessary.

Of those who voted for the resolution, 144 were democrats; 68 were republicans; 11 progressives and four independent republicans. Of those who voted against the measure, 141 were (Continued on page 9)

WILD ENGINE CRASHES INTO CARRANZA'S TRAIN

Leader's Trip to Tehuantepec Interrupted by Actions of Zapata's Forces.

Washington, Dec. 23.—General Carranza's trip from Vera Cruz to the isthmus of Tehuantepec has been interrupted by Zapata forces who captured Soledad and from there sent a wild locomotive into his approaching train. Neither Carranza nor any of his party was injured.

These facts were reported last night in a private dispatch from a point on the railroad on which Carranza was traveling. Carranza returned to Vera Cruz after the incident at Soledad and now has gone to Cordoba to inspect his troops. His officers say he will later continue his journey to the isthmus. Heavy rains, making traveling difficult, resulted in postponement of a conference between Maytorena, Villa commander at Naco, Sonora, and General Scott, chief of staff of the army, sent to Naco, Ariz., to endeavor to persuade the warring Mexican factions to discontinue military operations which endanger life and property on the American side of the border.

Stock Sold.

New York, Dec. 23.—The old stock of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railway company was sold at public foreclosure sale yesterday for \$1,125,500. James N. Wallace, chairman of the protective committee for the four per cent collateral trust bonds of the company, against which the foreclosure action was brought by the Central Trust company of New York against the railroad company for interest due on bonds valued at \$71,255,000.