

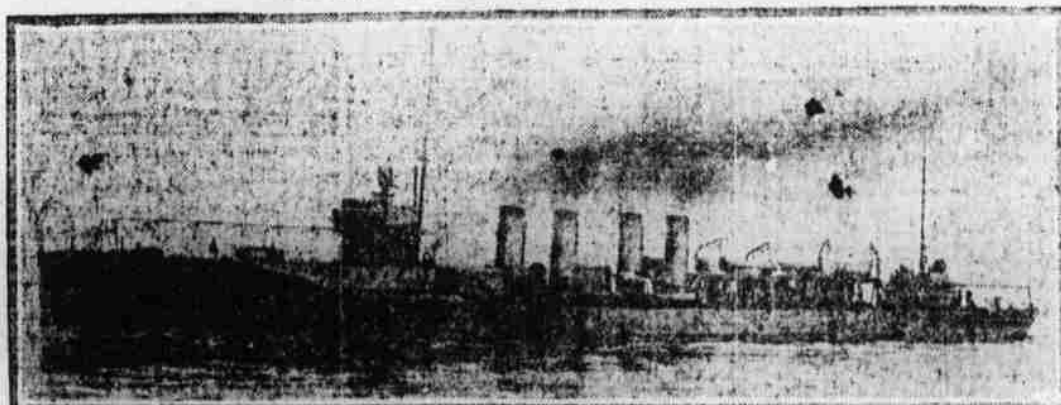
VOL. XXII. NO. 312.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DEC. 15, 1917

PRICE FIVE CENTS

MEANS CASE WILL
BE IN HANDS OF
JURY BY NIGHTCansler's Plea for Defendant
Moves Wife and Sis-
ters To TearsCALDWELL LAST
SPEAKER FOR STATEJudge's Charge Will Come
Next — Cansler Made
Lengthy ArgumentConcord, Dec. 15.—The case of
Gaston B. Means, charged with the
murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, prob-
ably will be in the hands of the jury
by nightfall.Final argument for the defense was
completed shortly before noon by E.
T. Cansler and L. C. Caldwell at once
began the concluding argument for
the state.Means' wife and sister were moved to
tears by Mr. Cansler's dramatic por-
trayal of what his conviction and exe-
cution would mean to members of his
family. Miss Belle Means was led
weeping from the courtroom at the
direction of Judge Cline.Mr. Cansler took up the contention
of the state that Mrs. King's resources
were practically exhausted and that
Means spent the last few weeks before
her death laying his plot.Mr. Cansler showed from the evi-
dence that she had, in addition to
other assets, an annual income of
about \$19,000 from her life trust. He
sought to show that the defendant was
preparing to probate the alleged last will
of the late James C. King, which could
not be probated after her death. Of
all men in the world, declared Mr.
Cansler, the defendant had the strongest
possible motive to preserve the
life of Mrs. King.GRAVES' SERVICE
BRANCH OF ARMYDuty To Arrange for Burial
of American Soldiers Who
Die In France and Care
for Their GravesWith the American Army in France,
Dec. 15.—(By The Associated Press)
—The organization has been an-
nounced of a branch of the army
whose sole duty is to arrange for the
burial of soldiers who die in France
and for the care of their graves.
Every detail has been worked out
and the American organization is ex-
pected to surpass similar organizations
in the British and French armies as
the best features have been taken
from both.The new organization is known as
the graves' registration service. It
is under the direction of a regular
army major and is a division of the
office of the chief quartermaster and
through that office is directly respon-
sible to General Pershing. The ser-
vice chief also is superintendent of all
American cemeteries in Europe and as
such is responsible for their proper
care and maintenance.A unit of two officers and 50 men is
provided for each army division. They
are to arrange for proper burials in
their respective divisions and also to
take care of the divisional cemetery.
The size of the units is to be increased
if the needs demand.There is a headquarters detachment
in command of a colonel, and reserve
battalions to be available for detach-
ment with immediate assignment
where needed.The American expedition force has
been assigned land by the French au-
thorities for use as semi-permanent or
temporary cemeteries and officers
have just returned from a trip
through the country locating ceme-
teries which may be used wholly or
partly for American dead. Already,
two large burial plots have been fen-
ced in and posted, and a number of
small ones arranged near the front as
temporary resting places for the
bodies of Americans who may be killed
in action.Each grave in the main cemeteries
will have a cross at the head and an
iron marker. Temporary graves will
be marked by pegs and a cross or other
headstones. On each also there
will be an identification tag and a
card giving the soldier's rank, the or-
ganization to which he belonged and
the circumstances of his death which
information also will be forward im-
mediately to the record office, where
the records will contain the location
and a picture of the grave for the
benefit of relatives.There will be a continual inspection
of all cemeteries, to make sure that
they are properly kept. The personnel
of the service has been selected with a
view to its experience and qualifica-
tions and many men who were under-
takers in civil life have been trans-
ferred to where they can give the
most efficient service.Baseball Trade.
Chicago, Dec. 15.—Shortstop Lavan
and Outfielder Bert Shotton, of the St.
Louis Americans, were sold to the
Washington club for \$15,000 and
Pitcher Gallia yesterday. The deal
was completed by Robert Quinn and
Clark Griffith.TASK OF CLASSIFYING
ALL REGISTRANTS FOR
SERVICE BEGAN TODAYWithin Sixty Days 9,000,000
Registrants Will Be Di-
vided Into Five ClassesCROWDER PREDICTS
SUCCESS OF SYSTEM
Never Before Have Armies
Been Chosen With Such
Scientific PrecisionWashington, Dec. 15.—The war de-
partment's huge task of classifying
the nation's manpower for army ser-
vice actually began today with the
mailing out of the first 5 per cent of
the questionnaires. At the same time
recruiting facilities already overtaxed
with recent enlistments threatened to
give way before the rush of draft regis-
trants eager to avail themselves of
the first chance to volunteer.Recruiting officers found them-
selves without means of accommodat-
ing thousands enlisted yesterday and
the stream which continued to apply.
Secretary Baker early today came to
the relief of the thousands of men
who have volunteered for the regular
army but have been rejected because
of the breakdown of the recruiting
machinery, by ordering that all qual-
ified applicants who presented them-
selves before noon today should be ac-
cepted even though their examination
and other details could not be ac-
complished until later.The mailing of questionnaires will
be completed speedily by the war de-
partment and within 60 days more
than 9,000,000 registrants will be di-
vided into five classes, as regards their
liability for military service.In a statement issued today Pro-
vost Marshal General Crowder said:"The plans have been made, the
machines have been built, and with the
loyal co-operation of the local boards,
so amply demonstrated by their past
accomplishments, the millions of regis-
trants, within the space of 60
days, stand marshalled for their place
in the world's war, each in the class
to which his economic worth entitles
him.""I have not the slightest hesitation
in predicting the absolute success of
the classification system. From every
part of the country has come praise
for the plan. It will provide armies in
a steady stream, armies built from the
body politic by the body politic.""Never before in the history of the
world have armies been chosen with
the scientific precision of the new
system. Men will shoulder the gun
first who should by all the laws of
reason offer themselves first to their
country and only grudgingly necessity
will compel us to invade the more de-
ferred classes; but if such necessity
does arise, it will find the country
ready.""Through the governors of the
states a legal advisory board, to as-
sist registrants to make intelligent
answer to their questionnaires, has
been assigned to every local board;
through the same agencies the leaders
in medicine in every community
have pledged themselves to aid and
assist in medical examinations. The
great majority of the men who are
building the new system have offered
their services without price to their
government.""The completion of the classifica-
tion will practically complete the great
work of the ideal army district boards.
Thereafter they will act each in their
respective areas as the government's
agents for any new registration which
may occur, and will consider changes
of status or transfers of jurisdiction
when such may arise."Coal Famine Due to Lack
of Transportation FacilitiesWashington, Dec. 15.—After a
conference with Fuel Administrator
Garfield today, Chairman A. W.
Thompson, of the operating committee
of the eastern railroads declared the
coal famine was more due to a short-
age of transportation facilities than
shortage of coal.The operating committee, he said,
is trying to overcome this by re-rout-
ing coal shipments.To relieve the situation Michigan
solid train loads of coal are being
sent from Kentucky and Ohio lake
ports.Chairman Thompson and Adminis-
trator Garfield went over the whole
transportation question very exhaus-
tively, with the result that with the
re-arrangement of shipments on rail-
roads, eliminating long hauls where
shorter ones will reach the territory,
and also eliminating so-called "cross"
haul, some immediate improvement in
the situation is hoped for.The result of the plan would be
supply coal to localities from the
nearest producing or shipping center
instead of over the lines of ordinary
trade.Serious Situation in New York.
New York, Dec. 15.—With half of
New York's coal yards empty and suf-
fering increasing in the unheated
homes of the poor, the fuel adminis-
trators today exerted all their efforts
to release thousands of tons of coal
tied up at tidewater, or in snow bound
cars at sidings.The general fuel situation is regard-
ed as the most serious in the history
of the city. Hundreds of tenements
and homes are without heat; some
factories have been compelled to shutQUESTIONNAIRES GO
TO REGISTRANTSExemption Boards Sending
Out Five Per Cent Today
—Must Be Filled Out and
ReturnedThe city and county exemption
board members are busy today mailing
out the first five per cent of the ques-
tionnaires to the registrants. Each
day, until every man who registered
on June 5, and who is not now in the
military service of the country, has re-
ceived a copy, five per cent will be
mailed out by the local boards.The registrants have seven days
from the time the copies are mailed
out to fill them out and return them
to their respective boards. It is neces-
sary for the registrant to secure his
copy, for if he has changed his ad-
dress or his name is not correctly
spelled, and he does not receive a copy,
it will be his fault and the govern-
ment will hold him responsible. In
case any registrant does not receive a
copy of the questionnaire, he should
notify his board at once and a copy
will be supplied him.Members of the Asheville Bar asso-
ciation will assist registrants next
week in properly filling out the ques-
tionnaires, and a special meeting will
be held at the county court house this
afternoon for the purpose of arranging
the hours the different attorneys can
assist the exemption boards and the
legal advisory committee of this
county.By filling out the questionnaire the
registrant will be classified by the ex-
emption board and as the men are
needed the classes will be called up
for physical examination, following
which the registrant will be taken
into the military service of the country
if he passes the physical tests. Ex-
emption claims can be filed by those
who desire to make them.ENGLAND NEVER INQUIRED
OF GERMANY'S WAR AIMSLondon, Dec. 15.—With reference to
the German government's statement
that it had received through a neutral
government last September an in-
quiry in regard to its war aims under
circumstances indicating that the in-
quiry was made with the sanction of
the British government, the Daily
Chronicle prints a statement from
Lord Robert Cecil, minister of block-
ade, branding the whole thing, as un-
true. No such inquiry was ever made
with the knowledge and sanction of
the British government, Lord Robert
Cecil's statement declares, and adds
that no secret approaches of any sort
were ever made relating to German
war aims.Lord Robert Cecil declared that the
German government's statement was
untrue and pure invention.Meet at Wrightsville Next.
Greenville, S. C., Dec. 15.—The
Southern Textile association, at the
second day's session here yesterday,
decided to hold its semi-annual meet-
ing next June at Wrightsville Beach,
N. C.Coal Famine Due to Lack
of Transportation FacilitiesWashington, Dec. 15.—After a
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ed as the most serious in the history
of the city. Hundreds of tenements
and homes are without heat; some
factories have been compelled to shutWEAVER FAVORS
WOMAN SUFFRAGETenth District Congressman
Only Tar For The
Measure — All But Two
Vote For ProhibitionBy GEO. H. MANNING.
Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—The
North Carolina delegation in congress
is considerably concerned over which
way to vote on prohibition and woman
suffrage. Both subjects will be taken
up in congress within the next three
weeks and voted on. Nation-wide pro-
hibition will come to a vote in the
house next Monday and woman suf-
frage early in the new year.The present indications are that
prohibition will get all but two votes
from North Carolina, while the Susan
B. Anthony constitutional amendment
for woman suffrage will be opposed
by all but Congressman Zeb Weaver,
of Asheville. Mr. Weaver has had
much to say about the suffrage
question recently but the suffragists
claim he promised them some time
ago he would vote for their amend-
ment, and they believe he has not
changed his mind.Congressman Small and Congress-
man Fox, who have voted against pro-
hibition on former occasions in the
house, will vote against it again.
Senators Simmons and Overman
voted for prohibition when it was
passed by the senate late in the last
session.The majority of the North Carolina
members who will vote against woman
suffrage will base their action on the
ground that to bring it about by a
constitutional amendment will repeal
every law enacted in North Carolina
to safeguard suffrage and maintain
white supremacy in the state. Several
of them, while not opposing the vote
for women, insist each state should be
supreme in fixing its own qualifica-
tions for suffrage."No local right is so important to
the states as the right to control the
suffrage qualifications of its citizens,"
said one of the North Carolina mem-
bers today. "With the vast diversifica-
tions existing among the American
people on account of race, nationality
and language this question becomes
increasingly important. It would be a
hazardous experiment under such con-
ditions for the local interests of the
state to be turned over to the mercy
of adverse majorities in far distant
communities. For this general reason
we are unwilling to invest the federal
government, through a constitutional
amendment or otherwise, with any
jurisdiction to deal with suffrage in
the state directly or indirectly. The
proposed amendment, if passed,
would in practical effect undo the
constitutional enactment of the south-
ern states which for a generation have
secured white supremacy in those
communities."A group of North Carolina suffra-
gists, in Washington attending the
convention of the National Woman
Suffrage association, invited almost all
the North Carolina members to meet
with them at the office of Senator Over-
man at Virginia, Wednesday to listen
to their appeal for the vote. The only
North Carolinian to put in an ap-
pearance was Senator Overman. The
Tenth District suffragists were most
disappointed.SEED CORN SHOW IS
IN PROGRESS TODAYEighth Annual Show Con-
ducted by Corn Club
of CountyThe eighth annual Buncombe County
Seed Corn show opened this morn-
ing in Police courtroom with Dr. Ar-
thur S. Wheeler, chairman of the
Buncombe county committee of the
board of trade, presiding. There are
a number of agricultural officials from
other counties present and E. S. Mil-
lars, farm agent of the Piedmont dis-
trict, is here.There are a number of displays to
show what the boys have done this
last season and the specimens have
been highly praised by the experts in
attendance.The program calls for short talks
by various officials, a luncheon and
later the judging of the corn and the
awarding of a large list of prizes.There will also be an exhibition of
the work done this year by the Girls'
Canning clubs of the county. Miss Al-
ice Rymer, home demonstration agent,
will have charge of this department
of the show.In spite of cold weather and snow
on the grounds, the courtroom was
filled with boys and men. A number of
men are also competing for prizes.

Destroyer Jacob Jones, Sunk by U-Boat



The U. S. Destroyer Jacob Jones, which has been sunk in the U-Boat zone. Lieutenant David Worth Bagley, her commander, with 42 others, were saved. Sixty-nine believed dead.

HEAVY FIGHTING
ON ITALIAN FRONTTeutons Are Attempting To
Advance Positions East of
Brenta River—Slight Gain
Near Monte BerettaItalian Headquarters in Northern
Italy, Dec. 15.—(By The Associated
Press)—Heavy fighting is in progress
today on the mountain front in the
north, east of the Brenta river. The
enemy is attempting to advance his
positions as he has those west of the
river, which would give him two lines
of approach to the Brenta valley and
the open plain.The chief Austro-German effort is
centering about Monte Beretta. There
the enemy succeeded in advancing
only a short distance in the repeated
attacks in which he suffered large
losses.Bombardment Increases In Violence.
Italian Headquarters in Northern
Italy, Dec. 15 (Delayed).—(By The As-
sociated Press).—The enemy has
brought a large number of his heav-
iest guns to the Piave and northern
fronts, and the bombardment has
taken on increased range and violence.
Some of the shells have reached
Manservio, eight miles back of the Piave
and a few miles from the city of
Treviso. Four hundred of these mon-
ster projectiles were concentrated on
one point.General Diaz sums up the results
of the struggle of the last three days
in the north by saying that the enemy
secured an insignificant stretch of
ground at the cost of an immense sacri-
fice of blood.Although he has obtained a lodg-
ment on Monte Spina and Monte
Fontanel, this does not represent any
appreciable advance toward the plains
but merely a fluctuation of the Italian
line, of which Monte Grappa is the
dominating barrier. Even below
Grappa formidable offensive works
have been constructed in event the
enemy should reach the plain, but
each day of his futile pressure on the
north and east and of successful re-
sistance by the Italians and their al-
lies strengthens the belief that the
enemy will not realize this eventual-
ity.Sixty Tenth Divisions.
Washington, Dec. 15.—The strength
of the Austro-German invaders in
Italy, is placed by official dispatches
from Rome today at 60 divisions. On
the front line are 52 of which 45 are
Austrian and seven German. Eight
others, four German and four Aus-
trian, are said by information from
competent sources to be held back of
the lines in reserve.GERMANY IS GETTING
SUPPLIES FOR RUSSIAPetrograd, Dec. 15.—The Germans
already have begun to obtain fats and
other sorely needed supplies from
Russia, according to information
reaching Petrograd today.It was announced that credit in-
stitutions here had been informed that
trade had been resumed with the Ger-
mans at each of the points near the
northwestern front. New shops
have been opened and the Germans
are exchanging metals and chemicals
for vegetables and fats and especially
soap.POLICE SEIZE 24 QUARTS
AT RAILWAY STATIONTwenty-four quarts of whisky were
seized this morning at the Southern
railway station by Patrolman Green.
The booze came in a trunk on train
No. 15 from the east and as soon as
it was unloaded it attracted the offi-
cer's attention, perhaps by the odor
from some of the broken bottles.It was checked as baggage and here
no consignee's name. Most of the
shipment is "Jefferson Club," there
are several bottles of "Green River,"
the whisky guaranteed not to leave a
headache, according to the label.
There is one bottle of gin. The owner
is invited to call at Police station.Two Americans Wounded.
With the American Army in France,
Dec. 14 (By The Associated Press).—
A bursting shell has wounded two
American railway engineers working
behind the British front, according to
reports received today. The projectile
struck in a pile of picks, shovels and
other tools.REVOLT AGAINST
BOLSHEVIKI SEEMS
TO HAVE COLLAPSEDKorniloff Reported Defeated and Wounded—
Kaledines Arrested By Own Guards—Dutoff's
Troops Inactive—Bolsheviks Take Three
Cities in Don Cossack Territory—Mayor of
Rostov Invited to Attend ConferencePartial, if not complete, collapse of the counter revolution
in Russia is indicated in an announcement from the Petrograd
official news agency which says the Bolsheviks have captured
three important cities in the Don Cossack territory and that
General Kaledines, leader of the Don Cossacks, has been ar-
rested apparently by his own generals.DUTOFF ONLY ONE LEFT.
With General Korniloff reported defeated and wounded
near Bielgorod, and General Kaledines under arrest, the only
one left of the counter revolutionary triumvirate of military
leaders is General Dutoff, Hetman of the Ural Cossacks, who has
been operating in the province of Orenburg. The latest report
on the situation there is that there has been little military activity
while Bolshevik agents were attempting to undermine the
morale of Dutoff's troops.

Heavy Fighting Around Rostov.

General Kaledines' fall probably
followed the capture of Rostov, Nak-
hichevan and Tazanrog by the Bol-
sheviki. There had been heavy fight-
ing in and around Rostov since last
Sunday and previous reports had been
that General Kaledines was "in-
ning." Nakhichevan is across the Don river
from Rostov, while Tazanrog is on the
gulf of the same name ten miles west
of Rostov.The announcement of the official
news bureau says that the capture of
General Kaledines have invited the
mayor of Rostov to go to Novo Tcher-
kassk, the capital of the Don territory,
to discuss the suspension of military
operations. The mayor of Rostov
probably is a member of the Bolsh-
eviki agents of which organization
were reported several days ago as
having been sent into the ranks of
Kaledines' Cossacks to spread extren-
ist propaganda.

Cities in Hands of Bolsheviks.

Petrograd, Dec. 14.—The cities of
Rostov, Nakhichevan and Tazanrog,
in the Don Cossack territory, are in
the hands of the Bolshevik troops, ac-
cording to a report issued by the of-
ficial news bureau. General Kaled-
ines, leader of the Don Cossacks, the
announcement adds, has been arrest-
ed by Generals Kaldin and Bototsky
and their staffs who have invited the
mayor of Rostov to go to Novo Tcher-
kassk, the Cossack capital, to discuss
the suspension of military operations.

Resumption of Negotiations.

London, Dec. 15.—A Petrograd dis-
patch dated Friday announces the re-
sumption of Russo-German armistice
negotiations and says they are now
concerned with the transport of troops
from the front. The question of the
cess and conditions of fraternization,
Russia maintains her attitude in re-
spect to transportation of German
troops to other fronts, contending that
the Germans should not send men
from the east to France and Belgium.The Petrograd newspapers announce
that Germany has withdrawn her de-
mand for disarmament of the entire
Russian army.Bolshevik units at Kiev have been
disarmed by the Ukrainians and sent
to their homes.FOOD ADMINISTRATION
OFFICIALS VISIT TROOPSWith the American Army in France,
Dec. 15.—(By The Associated Press)
—Six representatives of the food ad-
ministration arrived yesterday for a
four days visit with the troops. They
were entertained at luncheon by Gen-
eral Pershing, inspected headquarters
and then left for a billet town.
The party will be taken all over the
zone, will eat, sleep and talk with the
soldiers and acquire first hand infor-
mation which will be used in a series
of lectures to assist in the food con-
servation campaign.NEGRO ARRESTED
FOR SWINDLINGMuskogee, Okla., Dec. 15.—Cor-
nellius Jones, a negro lawyer, alleged to
be the leader of a conspiracy to
swindle negroes throughout the south
by promising to recover from the gov-
ernment \$48,000 due the blacks on a
"civil war cotton revenue settle-
ment," was placed under arrest here
yesterday by United States officers on
an indictment returned against him
by a federal judge at Memphis, Tenn.
The indictment charges he has oper-
ated in many sections of the south.

Arsenal to Suspend.

Watertown, Mass., Dec. 15.—Major
Tracy Dielson, commandant of the
government arsenal, said last night
that unless he could obtain definite as-
surance by next Monday night of a
renewed supply of coal the arsenal
would be forced to suspend on Thurs-
day 18.

Official Statement Confusing.

London, Dec. 15.—Press dispatches
from Petrograd throw little light on
the military situation in southern
Russia. The official statements is-
sued in Petrograd are confusing and
there are various reports regarding
General Kaledines and General Korn-
iloff, whose whereabouts are not
known definitely."The fog of war has settled down
over all the Russians," says the Pe-
trograd correspondent of The Post,
"although very little actual warfare
has developed."All regular means of communica-
tion are disorganized, but according
to intelligence from different parts of
the country conditions are entirely
those of war.The people of Petrograd are said
to be more interested in the attitude
of the Bolsheviks toward the consti-
tuent assembly than in the Russo-
German negotiations or civil war in
the south.The Bolsheviks are still represented
as being determined to prevent the
constituent assembly from taking on
any complexion except a reflection of
their own views but there apparently
is a sharp disagreement as to the
methods.All allies agree that force is the
only law in Russia today and the
strongest force for the moment is
wielded by the Bolsheviks.Virtually every newspaper in Russia
has been suppressed except those con-
trollable by the Bolsheviks and the
banks are closed."On the other hand signs of good
discipline are not wanting," the dis-
patch to The Post continues. "Soldiers
returning by tens of thousands from
the war zone no longer retain their
arms, as they did with such disastrous
results under the Kerensky regime.
Even the Petrograd garrison has be-
come amenable to moderate discipline.
The strong hand is felt everywhere
and everywhere murmurs of indigna-
tions are heard at the manner in which
the strong hand is employed—pre-
cisely, in fact, the general condition
of public opinion under the Romanoff
regime."The same correspondent points to
supposed indications of the intention
to restore the monarchy. Lenin, he
says, is an inviolable mystery, inaccessi-
ble and closely guarded. Trotsky, on
the other hand, speaks frequently
and is very accessible.CONGRESSMAN TINKHAM
HAD NARROW ESCAPEItalian Headquarters in Northern
Italy, Dec. 14 (Delayed).—(By The As-
sociated Press).—An army automo-
bile in which Congressman George H.
Tinkham, of Boston, was riding today
on a visit to Monte Grappa on the
northern mountain front, skidded over
the mountainside and dropped 20 feet.
It made a double turn and was crushed
to pieces but the congressman and the
other occupants escaped with bruises,
the chauffeur being seriously in-
jured.Congressman Tinkham, who fired
the first American shot against Aus-
tria, received slight injuries.

Two Killed in Wreck.

Houston, Tex., Dec. 14.—A South-
ern Pacific passenger train enroute to
Galveston yesterday afternoon struck
a street car here, killing two persons
and seriously injuring six others. The
street car was demolished and the en-
gine and two coaches derailed.