

MILITARY HAS NOT PASSED FROM ALLES IN WEST

So Declares Secretary Baker in Weekly Review of the War.

GERMANS ARE STILL ON THE DEFENSIVE

Reports of Great Massed Efforts by Germans in West Are Numerous.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—"No element in the military situation should lead us to conclude that the initiative in the west has passed from the allies to the enemy," says Secretary Baker in his weekly review of military operations, made public tonight and devoted largely to the German advertising of an impending great offensive.

"During the period of the review (week ending yesterday) the general military situation in the west has remained unchanged," the review says.

"Reports of massed hostile concentrations in those sectors where the enemy professes to break through the French front and roll back the allied line on a broad scale, are numerous.

"The German higher command seeks victory through victory. The enemy is apparently very eager to have us believe that he is about to win such a victory.

"For the past two years the Germans have been on the defensive in the west. The hold advertising of an impending offensive on the part of the enemy, which while in the realm of possibility and therefore should not be neglected or overlooked, must in no wise be interpreted to mean that the increased strength of the hostile forces will result in any permanent strategic advantage of the Germans.

"Surveying the outlines of the general war strategy on all fronts, we find that both belligerents have been in the offensive during the past six months.

"The central powers have taken the initiative in the eastern and Italian theater, the allies along the major front in the west, Palestine, Mesopotamia and East Africa.

"The enemy has confined his efforts to advancing his lines along the Russian front resulting in the capture of Riga and the initiation of an offensive in Italy, with the assistance of an intensive political drive, gained a marked strategic success in this sector.

"The allies in the principal theatre of operations in the west, have been able to record an almost uninterrupted series of tactical advantages and in spite of the concentration of a preponderant majority of the most efficient German divisions, have gained considerable terrain and taken a large quota of prisoners.

"In the outlying areas of Mesopotamia and Palestine the British have driven the enemy before them, and their offensive continued during the week in the capture of Jerusalem.

"Germany realizes the danger attendant upon the waning of her influence in the east and will therefore be more anxious than ever to continue a speedy peace before the 'war-map' becomes less favorable.

"The raiding of German towns in the interior, more especially in the industrial centers of the Rhenland, by allied aircraft, as reprisals for the repeated bombardment of open towns in France and Great Britain by the Germans has been successfully initiated.

"Reports of observers recently out of Germany, who were present during previous air raids, state that these raids have had a very depressing effect on the civilian population and have heightened the growing discontent among the German people, who now for the first time are being brought face to face with real war conditions.

"The armistice concluded by the Russians with the enemy now includes the entire eastern front from the Baltic to the Black sea. Negotiations are now proceeding smoothly. The German demands as reported to us, specify, among other points, the immediate opening up of channels of commerce intercourse between Russia and Germany."

WANTS MILITARY SERVICE CREWSON ALL TRANSPORTS

(Continued from Page One.) similar request from the same crew in a very short period, so that the department has been placed at the mercy of its employees.

The general recommendations follow: "First—That the crews shall be of the best type of American citizens available, who are experienced in the work of maintenance and operation of vessels of this service."

"Second—That the tenure of service of such employees shall be of such duration that they cannot be terminated at the will of the employes.

"Third—That all members of the crew shall be subject to military discipline thus enabling a prompt and strict compliance with such orders as may be given."

"No plan other than an enlisted service can possibly be suggested under which crews of vessels of the army transport service, the mail planters and the harbor boats can be controlled, with fixed rates of pay in different grades and it is urged that in view of the actual conditions now existing that a law be enacted along the lines heretofore proposed for the commissioning, warranting and enlisting of the crews of the entire service."

"The first recommendation for enlisted crews for army vessels was made by a board of officers in 1915. It was declared then to be a necessity to enlist the crews to obtain a dependable service both in peace and war."

UNUSUAL RECORD FOR BUSINESS IS MADE BY CONGRESS

(Continued from Page One.) shortages will be resumed tomorrow by the senate manufacturers' subcommittee.

Further progress in another investigation of the alleged disloyal St. Paul speech of Senator La Follette, will be discussed at a meeting of the senate privileges and elections committee Thursday.

The resolution is being studied by many members of congress with all waiting President Wilson's recommendations. It is thought at the capital that the president may sign the resolution in congress until after it reconvenes January 2, but members are prepared to postpone the holiday recess should the president decide to address congress later this week.

POLICE AND NEGROES IN BATTLE AT BRIDGEPORT

Negroes Barricade Club and Open Fire on Officers. 105 Are Arrested.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Dec. 16.—A three hour battle with riot guns and revolvers, between the police and frequenters of a negro club on Water street, took place today and resulted in the wounding of one policeman, two white citizens and three negroes. Of the injured, two probably will die.

The proprietor of the club, William "Baby Doll" Thom and 105 other persons including twelve young white women were under arrest.

The fight started about 2 a. m. and continued until 5 o'clock. Thousands of shots were fired. Virtually the whole police force was at one time engaged in the siege of the quarters held by the negroes and the final action took place when Superintendent of Police Redgate and five policemen forced their way into the club room and fought those inside face to face.

Early this morning a white man complained that he had been roughly treated at the club. The regular policeman summoned two others and went to the club to investigate. Shots were fired at them through the door and one policeman was hit. The officers sent in a call to headquarters for help and the men inside barricaded the doors, opened the windows facing on Water street and threatened to shoot any one approaching.

The reserves who tried to force their way into the building were met with a volley of shots. The police superintendent then called for nearly all his men and the place was surrounded. One detail fired into the windows of the club with riot guns thus preventing the negroes from shooting into the street.

A large number of those inside tried to get away, but were gathered in by the police. Chief Redgate and five officers gained access to the rear of the club room and went in. When they reached the smoke-laden club room five men were found there who surrendered only after they had emptied their weapons.

Thomas fled to the cellar of an adjoining building, but was captured and held without bail.

Of the 105 persons under arrest, twelve were white men and twelve young white women, the rest being negroes.

CHAIRMAN OF RED CROSS WAR COUNCIL CALLS ON NATION TO JOIN WORK

Great Christmas Membership Campaign Will Start Today.

MILLIONS WANTED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—On the eve of great Christmas membership campaign of the American Red Cross, beginning tomorrow, Henry P. Davison, chairman of the society's war council, issued the call for "To the five million members working loyally with us today—stand by the colors!

"To the ten or fifteen million members who will join us before Christmas eve—fall in!"

Mr. Davison told in his statement something of what he had learned about the organization and its wonderful expansion to meet war conditions:

"Today the American Red Cross is one of the modern miracles," he said. "It has accomplished the impossible in the short span of the membership volunteer works; in the Junior Red Cross for children; in its chapter administration covering the whole United States map; it has mobilized American resources for a world emergency; it stands behind the American army and navy with supplies and with personnel for every call which they may make upon it. It works with President Wilson's approval in the task of preparing our people for mutual service to those among us who may suffer because of changes which the war has brought."

"The Red Cross has opened a new conception of American and the American spirit. It is with the zeal of a convert that I invite the American people to come with me under the banner of the Red Cross as a national organization that is demanded by these times. We need your loyal and your efficient membership, in order that our organization may be truly represented."

MASS MEETING HELD. NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—A great mass meeting tonight at the largest theater in New York opened the Christmas membership campaign to add 800,000 members to the American Red Cross in New York. Former President Taft presided at the meeting and Henry P. Davison, chairman of the Red Cross war council, was one of the speakers.

A novel feature of the entertainment was a human Red Cross flag which was raised by 400 women. The Star Spangled Banner was sung by John McCormack.

ARMY TRUCK SERVICE IS PUT UNDER SEVERE TEST

May Result in Relieving Freight Congestion Over the Land.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The first section of the American army's new experimental truck transport service has been started from Detroit on its way to the Atlantic seaboard to test the army's plan for relieving congestion in freight terminals by the use of motor trucks.

In a statement tonight, Quartermaster General Sharpe said if the plan proves successful it is estimated that the total relief to the railroads through the shipment to the coast, under their own power, of the 30,000 war trucks the army has under construction, will amount to 800,000 tons and also will permit the transportation of 90,000 tons of government materials to the coast from the interior storage depots.

"The plan will serve also another urgent need," said General Sharpe. "The training of our men will receive driving loaded army trucks from factory to seaport under the trying conditions which will be encountered this winter will, as nearly as possible, reproduce the actual service conditions abroad."

"A comprehensive system of rough routes between the truck production centers, the storage center on an Atlantic coast port is being worked out. The routes are those which can most easily and clearly be brought into condition to stand the traffic and which will lead most directly from the truck production centers to the seaports."

"A central main line highway will be selected between Chicago and New York city, and leading to this feeder routes from the various scattered motor production centers. In the east, branch routes will lead off the main line north and south to the various Atlantic coast ports.

"State and county officials have been called to Washington and urged as a patriotic duty in the war emergency to bring these local gauges immediately into suitable condition."

AROUND TOWN

GOES TO NEW ORLEANS. Mrs. John J. Clarke leaves today for Atlanta, where she will be joined by her daughter, Miss Edith, who is a student of Agnes Scott college, after which they will go to New Orleans to spend the holidays with friends.

CONDITION UNCHANGED. The condition of Raymond Groom, who is at the Meriwether hospital with a bullet in his right lung as a result of a fight with L. V. Shepherd, remains unaltered. It has not yet been decided when an operation will take place. Small hope for the recovery of young Groom is entertained.

ENTENTE GOVERNMENTS NEARING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOLSHEVIKS

More Sympathetic Dealings With Bolsheviki Probable in Future.

WILL AID RUSSIA.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—While the Russians were continuing to make progress in the ratification of an armistice arrangement with the Germans, the entente governments apparently were approaching an agreement for more sympathetic dealings with the Bolsheviki government. The adoption of a more tolerant attitude toward Russia is said to have been urged by the American delegates to the recent Paris conference and this view has now apparently been adopted by the members of the entente. Lead Northcliffe's Weekly Dispatch says today:

"The belief here is that the Bolsheviki government is likely to remain in power for a long time. The principal aim of the entente has hitherto been to try to assist in every effort to bring Russia relief from an economic collapse."

Dispatches during the last twenty-four hours from Petrograd led to further efforts to the Bolsheviki to consolidate their government in civil life and with the army, church and the courts and with regard to railway communication.

The railway union for the district around Petrograd has voted to recognize the authority of the Bolsheviki and consented to transport Bolsheviki troops to the south to operate against General Kaledine. The union also has sent delegates to the front to arrange for the transportation of demobilized troops homeward.

Two regiments fresh from the front, paraded in Petrograd Saturday and the newspapers say that demobilization is proceeding rapidly, though in a disorderly fashion. In many cases companies have been reduced to the strength of 25 to 30 men by gradual departures of soldiers who demobilized themselves.

The serious fuel situation in Petrograd now has been complicated by strikes of employes in the fuel department, who refuse to work under the Bolsheviki commissaries. A similar case has been responsible for a strike of the employes in the Petrograd city hall, who quit work on the appearance of the new Bolsheviki mayor, who formerly was a day laborer.

REMEMBER THE BIRDS WHILE SNOW IS HERE

Small Amount of Crumbs Will Prevent Suffering on Part of the Feathered Tribe.

Although the national food conservation program seeks to teach the American people to conserve all fragments of food coming from the kitchen, it has been suggested to The Citizen that a few crumbs should be spared for the birds.

The snow which has covered the ground for the past several days has shut off the supply of food for the feathered tribe, and unless the people provide for the songsters there will be a general emigration of this kind to sections where food may be found.

A little forethought on the part of residents in placing food in accessible places will do much to protect and conserve the birds, and this will in no way conflict with the conservation of food, for the reason that the birds can exist on small bits of scraps that can be used for no other purpose.

LIFE AT TRAINING CAMPS IN PICTURES

At the suggestion of the Military Training Camps association a moving picture showing the work being accomplished by the officers' training camps has been made and will be shown in Asheville at the Galax theatre today and tomorrow. This picture is entitled "Who Leads the National Army?"

While comparatively few Americans have had an opportunity of visiting any of the great training camps, those who have been here have not had an opportunity of seeing in full the work being done. This picture is designed to give the public an intimate insight into the work, showing in detail the various branches of the work from the time "revellie" is blown at 5 o'clock in the morning until the sound of "taps" at 10 o'clock at night.

The picture shows in detail the many and varied jobs taught the embryo officers and will be shown with interest by all who have relatives or friends in the camps, believing, as it does, the many endurance tests the men have to undergo before qualifying for commissions in the national army.

The scenes in the picture are said to have been taken at Fort Meyer, Niagara, Benjamin Harrison, Sheridan, Snelling and Plattsburg. In the picture, the men are shown in various positions of duty, showing in detail the various branches of the work from the time "revellie" is blown at 5 o'clock in the morning until the sound of "taps" at 10 o'clock at night.

SEVERELY WOUNDED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—General Pershing advised the war department today that First Lieutenant H. C. Boyle, medical officers reserve corps, attached to the British forces, was severely wounded in action December 7. Boyle's next of kin, Mr. Margaret Boyle, lives at Lusana, Pa. General Pershing also reported the deaths of three men from medical causes.

CASSTON B. MEANS FOUND NOT GUILTY OF MURDER OF MRS. KING AT CONCORD

(Continued from Page One.) Mrs. King was also asserted Means was preparing to offer for probate an alleged second will of James C. King which would give an additional \$2,000,000 to Mrs. King.

Re-open Investigation. North Carolina officials re-opened the investigation and at a hearing in September Means was bound over to the jury and later indicted. At his trial, which began November 26, the state contended that Means had "looted" the woman's fortune and killed her to escape "an early accounting." Witnesses asserted Means had kept the woman a virtual prisoner in the Chicago beach hotel. The defense denied this and offered evidence to show that Mrs. King approved Means' speculation with her money.

Means said on the stand that he investigated neutrality violations for Germany before the United States broke with Germany, but always was loyal to his country and turned over to officials information he thought of value to this country.

The defense contended the woman's death was accidental; that she stumbled, fractured her ankle and in falling fired the pistol.

Mrs. King's mother, Mrs. Anna L. Robinson, of Asheville, and her sister, Mrs. Mary C. Mevin, took offense at the case, the mother appearing as a witness for the prosecution and the daughter siding with Means.

FACES INDICTMENTS. NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Gaston B. Means, acquitted of the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, faces indictment in this county for forgery and embezzlement. District Attorney Swann announced tonight.

"There is concrete evidence in our hands tending to show that Means forged many documents, on which he obtained large sums of money from Mrs. King's estate," said Mr. Swann, "and there is evidence pointing to him as the embezzler of the major portion of Mrs. King's wealth."

"Until I hear from Assistant District Attorney Deane, who aided in the prosecution of Means in Concord and who worked on the case against him, I shall be unable to say just when we shall take the evidence before the grand jury, I believe, however, that Mr. Deane will arrive tomorrow or Tuesday at the latest and that before the week is over the bulk of the evidence will be laid before the grand jury."

"The people of New York can rest assured that all the facts in the Means-King case will be brought to light in this county. Forgery and embezzlement are extraditable offenses, and if any person outside the jurisdiction of the state is indicted for these crimes in this county he will be brought here for trial."

THREE POLICE CASES FORM DAY'S ARRESTS

Assault, Trespass, Disorderly Conduct, Larceny, and Usual Drunks Occupy Police on Sunday.

Three cases occupied the police on Sunday, of which one, Red Williams, 35, was arrested for drunkenness, and another, Ernest Johnson, colored, fourteen years old, was taken into custody charged with disorderly conduct, after indulging in profane and vulgar language out of all proportion to the expectation from one small colored child.

Horace Wilson, colored, 16, of 41 Madison street, an errand boy for Good's Drug Store, was arrested charged with stealing soda, water and toilet articles from the store of his employer to the value of \$3.

Another haul of whiskey was made at the depot yesterday afternoon, when broken bottles and flowing liquor revealed the contents of a trunk. Twenty-eight quarts, intact, of high grade whiskey, besides several broken bottles, were found in the trunk.

MAN CAUGHT BENEATH CAR THAT OVERTURNS

W. W. Pitts Recovers Broken Ribs and Other Injuries in Accident on Haywood Street.

W. W. Pitts of 278 Haywood street yesterday afternoon at about 2:30 o'clock received severe injuries when his automobile overturned while running east on Haywood street at about ten miles an hour and pinned him underneath. Dr. M. H. Fletcher and Billie Jones of 223 Haywood street were witnesses to the accident and hurried to the scene to try to extricate the injured man. Mr. Pitts was taken at once to his home, where Dr. Fletcher found that two of his ribs were broken, in addition to his having received severe bruises and a badly skinned face.

The accident occurred in front of 278 Haywood street, and in speaking of it afterward Mr. Pitts stated that the wheels seemed to go out from under his car, and he could not straighten them before the auto turned completely over. A broken steering gear was the cause of the trouble and the damage to the automobile was estimated at \$100.

NO DEATHS.

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 16.—For the second successive day no deaths were reported today at Camp Sevier. It was stated at divisional headquarters. More than sixty hours has passed without a death occurring in the division and the number of patients in the hospital has also greatly decreased. According to the health report today, sickness in the division is at the lowest level more than one-half larger than the normal amount, it is estimated.

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HEAVY SACRIFICE OF MEN AND HARD FIGHTING WIN POSITION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.)

France and to the north of the Chemin-Des-Dames. In both of these the Germans were worsted by the French. A small British maneuver south of Cambrai, resulted in the capture of a few German prisoners and a machine gun.

Hard Fighting. Between the Brenta and Piave rivers in the Italian highlands hard fighting continued until January 1, and then will continue in force automatically for less than seven days' notice of its discontinuance is given. On the signing of an armistice peace negotiations are to begin.

The Russian church, which was one of the most powerful institutions under the old regime, now has received attention at the hands of the Bolsheviks, which has directed the confiscation of all church property, lands, monies, gold, silver and precious stones and the abolition of all privileges from the clergy. The government has also decreed the abolition of religious instruction in the schools.

Little is heard from the constituent assembly in the day's dispatches. One group of the constituent delegates has gone to Kiev to hold sessions there. News from the Russian provinces is fragmentary. The all-Siberian workmen's and soldiers' council is trying to form a congress at Irkutsk. The constitutional democrats announce the formation of a constitutional democratic government in Poland.

MARINE NEWS. AT ATLANTIC PORTS.—Arrived, Steamers Andania, Asturiense, Borgun, Borussia, Ceylon, Dora, Egoria, Irishman, Jacinto Verdugo, Juan Margal, Lashan, Munda, Nickerie, Prince Willem, J. St. Veronica, San Four, Tacoma, Verons. Motorship Anam, steam yacht United States.

SPORT CALENDAR Monday. Meeting of the American Baseball association, at Chicago. Benny Leonard vs. Chic Brown, ten rounds, at New Haven. Gus Christie vs. Harry Greb, twelve rounds, at Cincinnati. Ted Lewis vs. Bryan Downey, twelve rounds, at Columbus, O. Johnny Griffith vs. Young Denny, twenty rounds, at New Orleans. John J. Erbe vs. Kid Williams, fifteen rounds, at Baltimore.

THREE MEN DIE AS GUARDBOUSE BURNS HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 16.—E. F. Gallagher, Munhall, Pa.; W. J. Kramer, Detroit, Mich.; and W. L. Wiley, Rockford, Ill., all members of the 118th aero squadron, U. S. A., were burned to death when the guardhouse at the government aero warehouse at Middletown, near Harris, was destroyed by fire today. The fire was caused, it is believed, by gas generated by burning tar roofing paper which the men, the only inmates of the small frame structure, were using to heat the building. The men were confined for minor offenses. Kramer was rescued alive but died later in the post hospital. The others were dead when comrades dragged them from the burning building.

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TO HOLD REHEARSALS FOR "HONOR OF NAME" Will you do your bit for our boys? Here is your opportunity. All who are willing to assist in "The Honor of the Name" come to Langren Hotel at 3 Tuesday night. Don't wait to be asked. There isn't time. You must volunteer. All honor to the volunteers. Adv. CANDY LOVERS NOTICE. Baker, the Candy Maker, having obtained some new ideas in California will present a few in the way of homemade Candies at 16 Broadway, Langren Building. The firm of Baker and company is now dissolved. See number street signs.

AROUND TOWN GOES TO NEW ORLEANS. Mrs. John J. Clarke leaves today for Atlanta, where she will be joined by her daughter, Miss Edith, who is a student of Agnes Scott college, after which they will go to New Orleans to spend the holidays with friends. CONDITION UNCHANGED. The condition of Raymond Groom, who is at the Meriwether hospital with a bullet in his right lung as a result of a fight with L. V. Shepherd, remains unaltered. It has not yet been decided when an operation will take place. Small hope for the recovery of young Groom is entertained. REMOVED TO HOSPITAL. A. B. Freeman was removed yesterday afternoon to the Meriwether hospital, where he is under treatment as the result of a severe injury received last Tuesday night, when he slipped and fell on Patrick avenue, breaking loose the ligaments and muscles of one of his legs which was lame, and otherwise injuring himself. TRUMP COMMITTEE MEETS. The thrift committee composed of the various club women of the city, of which Mrs. Theodore F. Malloy is chairman, will meet at the home of Mrs. Malloy, 72 Merrimon avenue, this afternoon at 3 o'clock. Candidates are urged to be present as measures for carrying out the committee's portion of the work in this county are to be outlined.

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