

TRUANT OFFICER KIRBY TELLS GOOD NEWS' FUND HAS DONE FOR CHILDREN

Officer Who Has Disbursement of Free-Book Fund Raised by This Newspaper from the People of This City in Hand, Declares That This is the Happiest Christmas of His Life and That Many People in Charlotte Have Been Materially Assisted Through it—Ray of Hope and Good Cheer Brought into Many Homes Through Instrumentality of This Fund, According to Mr. Kirby.

"This is the happiest Christmas of my life," said Truant Officer M. F. Kirby of the Charlotte schools, this morning when he paid his respects to the Charlotte News.



Truant Officer M. F. Kirby, who disbursed News' Poor Children's School Fund.

With this fund. That would be manifestly unfair to the people themselves, but I repeat that the present Christmas is one of the happiest Christmas ever had.

WASHINGTON READY FOR CHRISTMAS -- PRESIDENT TO ACT AS SANTA CLAUS

Washington, Dec. 24.—Governmental business practically was suspended today and the national capital commended final plans for its Christmas celebration. Congress was taking a recess, at the White House only necessary business was being transacted.

CAPTURE OF LODZ WAS TURNING POINT IN CAMPAIGN

By Associated Press. Lodz, Russian Poland, Monday, Dec. 21.—(By Automobile Courier to Posen, Prussia, Dec. 23; London Dec. 24, 11 A. M.)—The capture of Lodz, according to a declaration made today by General von Hindenburg, German commander, to a correspondent of the Associated Press, was the turning point of the campaign in Poland. Russian lines in northern Poland rested on that city for the possession of which there occurred the most bitter struggle of the entire war on this front.

The Associated Press correspondent today visited some of the battlefields in the vicinity of Lodz and gained an idea of the nature of the operations which led to the city's capture.

According to the general alignment of the Austro-German forces, they might have been expected to advance from the west. However, the attack was made largely from the north and northwest. They drove their columns into the Russians in the form of a huge pitchfork, with another large force between the times.

PAWN BROKERS MUST REPORT ON UNIFORM BLANKS

Effective the first of the coming year pawn brokers in the city of Charlotte must make uniform reports to the chief of police, so that this department of the city government may more effectively handle this matter.

CENTURY OF PEACE BETWEEN ENGLAND U.S. CELEBRATED

By Associated Press. New York, Dec. 24.—On the anniversary of the signing of the treaty of Ghent and of 100 years of peace among English-speaking peoples, Andrew Carnegie, chairman of the American peace centennial committee, today sent two cablegrams on behalf of the committee.

JUMPED FROM TENTH FLOOR TO DEATH

Richmond, Va., Dec. 24.—Miss Elizabeth Smith, aged 22, of Durham, N. C., a stenographer out of employment, jumped from the tenth floor of an office building here yesterday afternoon and was crushed to death.

CHRISTMAS EVE FINDS OPPOSING ARMIES GRAPPLING FOR SUPREMACY ON THE SPREADING BATTLE FRONTS

ATTORNEY CARRIES FRANK CASE TO SUPREME COURT

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 24.—Justice Lamar of the supreme court took under advisement today an application for an appeal from the action of Federal Judge Newman in refusing to release Leo M. Frank, convicted of the murder of Mary Phagan, on habeas corpus proceedings. The justice did not intimate when he would announce his decision.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Louis Marshall, of New York, of counsel for Leo M. Frank, under death sentence at Atlanta for the murder of Mary Phagan, arrived in Washington today to present to Justice Lamar of the supreme court an application for an appeal from the refusal of Judge Newman of the Georgia Federal court to release Frank on a habeas corpus writ.

FIVE MEMBERS OF FAMILY BURNED TO DEATH

By Associated Press. New York, Dec. 24.—Five members of a family living on the top floor of a five-story tenement on West Forty-ninth street were trapped in a fire early today that started in the basement and spread rapidly.

RAIN FORECAST FOR THE SOUTH

By Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 24.—An old time "White" Christmas was forecast today for most of the northern states, but throughout the south the government experts predicted a rainy holiday to be possibly relieved at some points by a little snow.

TALCUM MUST NOT BE THROWN ON THE STREETS

"I want to call attention to a custom which prevails here at Christmas time and which must be abated," remarked Chief of Police Horace Moore to a representative of The Charlotte News this morning.

"For this reason I have issued positive instructions to the patrolmen to bring into headquarters any person seen indulging in this practice tonight. I do not want to interfere with the pleasure of any resident of Charlotte and will not so long as they do not interfere with the rights of other residents.

In this connection attention is called to the announcement of Mayor Bland to the effect that fireworks are strictly prohibited tonight, tomorrow night and in fact throughout Christmas. The city officials do not object to the use of horns, bells and the like but they insist that there shall be no fireworks.

CITY COAL IS SECURED AT LOW FREIGHT RATES

"Because the railroads made us a better freight rate on the coal purchased by the city for distribution to the poor we were able to buy much more coal than would have been the case," said City Clerk A. H. Wearn this morning.

"When we started to get the coal an effort was made by Mr. Parker, commercial agent for the Southern railway, to get free transportation for the coal because it was for charity. This he was unable to do, but a half rate was secured both on the Southern and the Virginia Southwestern railway and the coal is costing \$1.12 less than it would have otherwise. We were able to get a better price on the coal from the mines and this means that about one-third more coal will be secured for the \$500 that would have been the case.

In view of the fact that the transportation companies gave this rate it appears to me that the people should know it."

JAP SHIPS ON COAST OF PERU

Lima, Peru, Dec. 24.—The Japanese battleship Hizen, accompanied by a Japanese destroyer and several English merchantmen, has anchored seven miles off Puerto de Pisura, on the northern coast of Peru. The warships probably are convoying the merchantmen to some South American port.

THE GERMANS PRESS ON WARSAW WITH MERCILESS DISREGARD OF SLAUGHTER

In West Flanders General Joffre Seems Waiting for Chance to Crush Through German Lines—Meeting With Remarkable Resistance—Near Three Million Men Believed to be Engaged in Great Conflict in Russian Poland—Thousands of Christmas Presents Are Delivered to Men in the Trenches—Operations in Galicia.

Today's official statements reveal the intense nature of the fighting east and west, but indicate, that, with the possible exception of East Prussia, there has been no significant change in the alignment of the opposing forces.

The German statement tells of a fight for possession of a trench in France which was won by the French, recaptured by the Germans and finally abandoned. So fierce was the struggle that the trench was almost leveled by artillery fire. No important movements are reported in the German communication.

The French statement, while asserting small gains have been made here and there, mentions German attacks at so many points that it is apparent the allies have not been permitted solely to take the offensive into their own hands. Such ground as they have won recently is not to be held without hard fighting.

Fighting in Poland has become most severe and at points west of Warsaw the issue is being fought out with bayonets. The Berlin war office states the Russian advance in East Prussia has been checked and that the Russians at Mlawka, in Poland, near the Prussian border, has been defeated.

FRENCH BATTLESHIP TORPEDOED BUT NOT SUNK

London, Dec. 24, 3:17 p. m.—An official statement given out in Paris today says that an Austrian submarine torpedoed a French battleship in the Gulf of Otranto.

AIRMAN DROPPED BOMB ON DOVER

London, Dec. 24.—(1:59 P. M.)—A hostile aeroplane dropped a bomb on Dover this morning and then disappeared, according to a statement made this afternoon by the official press bureau.

The text of the statement follows: "An aeroplane of the enemy dropped a bomb while passing over Dover this morning. The missile fell in a garden and exploded, but no damage was done. The aeroplane was seen for a few seconds only. It left immediately, passing out over the sea. A British air craft went up but did not see the enemy again. The weather was cloudy and foggy."

The Charlotte News Is deeply grateful for the splendid patronage it has received during the past year, wishes for everybody, friend and foe alike A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.