EPITOME OF THE BIG EVENTS
DURING ONE WEEK OF THE
War in Europe
Digest of Happenings Collected for our Busy Readers

December 22.—Prominent among the claims and counterclaims regarding the fighting in Flanders and France is the admission of Berlin that the Germans have last a trench some 180 feet in length southeast of Bethune.

From no point has there come a statement that would give verity to unofficial claims made to a great victory by the Germans in Poland. "In Poland the Russians are preparing strong positions near Rawa and Nida. We are attacking them everywhere."

Petrograd claims also to have repulsed another attempted sortie from Przemysl and to have captured a large number of Austrians.

Austria reports the appearance of strong Russian forces in Galicia, but declares that in the Carpathians attacks by the Russians have been repulsed; that the Austrian troops have advanced to Tuchow, south of Tarnow, and that a great battle is developing north of Lupkow pass.

The German emperor, having recovered from his recent illness, according to an announcement from headquarters at Berlin, has returned to the front.

From Athens it is reported that the allied fleet has bombarded the interior forts of the Dardanelles, but no details are given.

Prince von Buelow, the former imperial German chancellor and now ambassador to tlaly, has been rceived with great cordiality at Rome by King Victor Emmanuel.

December 21—The Russian official report says engagements on the left bank of the Vistula have been nothing more than outpost affairs. In these the Russians would seem to have been engaged in holding the Germans, while the Russian main force was forming along the Bzura River, where a battle is beginning to develop, and the German attack is said to have been repulsed.

Part of the Przemysl garrison has made a sortie in force in an attempt to open the railway to the southwest, and is giving battle to the Russian besieging army.

With the Germans strongly intrenched and the ground in bad condition, the Allies' offensive movement in Belgium and France is making slow progress. At several points, however, the French official report records the capture of German trenches The offensive is being pushed with considerable force in Flanders and from the Belgian border south to the river Oise, where the line turns eastward.

The Germans keep up violent counter attacks, and by these and the use of mines, in some cases have prevented the Allies from following up their advantage.

A message from Antwerp to The Amsterdam Telegraph asserts that the Germans, preparing for a possible retirement, aie constructing a line of defense accross Belgium from the Scheldt along the Dendre River to Maubeuge on the French frontier. This, if true, might be considered only a measure of precaution.

While the motor section of the South African defense force is gathering in the remainder of the scattered rebels, the main army is forming in German South Africa frontier where the advance guards are in touch.

December 20.—The allies, according to Paris, continue to gain ground in Belgium and France, Berlin, however, asserts that the operations have resulted in repulses to the allies in various places in some instances with heavy casualties. Paris says that the French artillery in the region of Verdun.

The British protectorate over Egypt has been declared, in all the garrison town by the firing of a salute of 101 guns and the raising of the British flags. Prince Hussein Kemal has been appointed sultan of Egypt.

M. Ribot, the French Minister of finance, has advised the appropriation committee of the chamber of deputies that France will not lack resources to continue the war to a finish without faltering.

Great Britian has recognized the French protectorate over Morocco.

The British fleet in the Pacific has been reinforced by the arrival at Callao of the Australian battle cruiser Australia.

The British admiralty denies that any British were sunk during the German raid on the east coast of England. It says, however, that two men were killed and 15 wounded aboard the destroyer Hardy.

The latest German statement on the situation is laconic. "In Poland," it says, "we continue to pursue the retreating enemy." Austria is more communicative than Berlin, for Vienna declares the Russian main forces are being pursued on the entire battle front for some 250 miles from Gallicia to that point in Poland northeast of Lowicz, where the Bzure river empties into the Vistula.

December 19.—From Warsaw comes word that a great battle is in progress 30 miles to the westward; that the German wedge has estabtlished itself in a strategic position and that desperate fighting is in progress, with reinfocements pouring into both Germans and Russians.

In Belgium and France the allies are carrying on the offensive operations begun a few days ago, slowly and steadily. Progress is noted in the French official statement and it is believed infantry on the two sides of the Western battle front have come to grips in many places, the number of wounded indicating the desperate nature of the struggle.

Further details from the English coast towns bombarded by the German squadron disclose an increasing number of victims. At the two Hartlepools alone the number of dead now officially announced is 82 with 250 wounded. At Scarborough 17 were killed and it is thought the full casulty list has not yet been made out. One British light cruiser and a torpedo boat destroyed which engaged the Germans lost five men killed and a number wounded. That the German ships were hit several times by the English coast batteries is announced officially at Berlin but it is asserted that the damage was slight.

Austria follows up the German announcement of a victory in Poland by the statement that the Russians are retiring along the whole front in both Gallicia and Poland, and it is said this may mean the withdrawal of the investing forces of Russians from Przemysl.

December 18.—The German warship raid on the English coast yesterday and their escape in a mist takes precedence in news from the European war zone. The Germans evaded patrols and mines and poured shells into the towns of Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby.

France estimates that the war for the first six months in 1915 will cost her $1,185,888,578 or about $200,000,000 monthly.

Vienna has admitted officially, according to a Rome dispatch, that 100,000 Austrians were killed or wounded in the unsuccessful campaign against Servia.

The German embassy at Washington has rece'ved advices from the German minister to Chile saying that in the recent fight between Brritish and German warships off the Falkland islands the British ships were badly damaged and one apparently was sunk.

Basel, Switzerland, reports that the French armies apparently hae taken the offensive on the front from Belfort to Cainte Marie-Aux-Mines and have converted Thann into a stronghold.

Washington has sent the cruiser Tacoma to Colon to protect the neutrality of the canal zone.

According to a Reuter dispatch from Nish King Peter and Crown Prince Alexander have entered Belgrade at the head of the victorious Servian army.

December 17.—From Nieuport, says the French official statement, the Franco-Belgian troops have debouched and occupied the line from the west of Lombaertzyde to the farm of Saint Georges. Lombaertzyde lies about one nad a half miles northeast of Nieuport and Saint Georges is about one mile southeast of Nieuport.

Farther ot the east there has been a gain of nearly a third of a mile in the direction of Klein Zillebeke.

The French war office admits the success of German infantrymen in gaining a foothold at Steinbach, in Alsace, although declaring the French still hold the heights overlooking that place.

The German cruiser Dresden, the last of the German squadron of five defeated by British warships ni the south Atlantic, according to latest reports has sailed from Punta Arenas in the Strait of Magellan, where she took refuge, with one or more British cruisers in pursuit.

The British official press bureau announces that the sinking of the battleship Bulwark was due to an explosion caused by the accidental ignition of the ammunition.

December 16.—"New decisions and measures consequently will be taken to repel the enemy," says the Austrian statement. Apparently that means that the Austrian army directed against Servia will assume a defensive line.

The progress of the war in Northern Hungary is less definite. Sunday's German wireless report, with candor equal to that of the Austrian bulletin, spoke of the severe resistance which the German and Austrian arms are encouraging in South Poland and Galicia, adding that it was evident that the Austrian forces in the Carpathians are not strong enough to clear the Russians out of Hungarian territory.

The Germans claim a distinct gain in their position in Northern Poland, although they are not believed to be as near Warsaw as the report last week indicated. On the other hand the Russians announce a strategic realignment of their forces which strengthens their positions.

In a late report tonight the Austrians announce that they have reoccupied the important point of Dukla north of the Przemysl and Cracow, but nearer to the former, with the capture of 9,000 prisoners.

Children and Old-Fashioned Toys

"CHILDREN are conservative beings, even old fashioned, when it comes to choosing toys. They aren't up to date and as full of the modern spirit of progress and invention as the toymakers believe them to be."

Thus spoke one who is a sort of professional Santa Claus—that is, he has played the part at so many Sunday school Christmas parties that he sometimes imagines he is growing cotton whiskers.

"They display the same quaint, simple, old-fashioned taste as their grandfathers and grandmothers when they were children," he continued. "Most of them, do, anyhow. Every year the toy manufacturers break loose with a new crop of automatic racing cars, aeroplanes, submarines, fire engines and kicking donkeys. If the children were constructed on the same nervous clock-work plan, they would give old Santa Claus no rest unless he kept up with all the modern inventions. Instead of toy soldiers they would demand mortar batteries, and they would not be satisfied with mooley cows, but would demand that they have pedigrees and give only certified milk and cream.

"They would not accept a Noah's ark unless it was a combination of the steamship Lusitania and a modern cement bungalow, with sleeping porches, twin-screw propellers, electric searchlights, wireless apparatus, second chattel mortgage—in fact, all the comforts of ship and home complete. They would require Mr. Noah to carry a pilot's license as well as a college degree in natural history. All the animals would have to be trained to do tricks, and poor Noah's family would have a fine time herding them while wearing wooden raincoats and stove-pipe hats.

"Fortunately children, real children, are not constructed that way. They want their arks on the old-fashioned plan, whereby you lift off the roof and find Noah minus his head, and most of the animals trying to hobble on three legs.

"Automobiles in miniature, with real upholstered seats and rubber tires may fascinate a small boy for a few hours, but you'd better place your faith in a good, old-pattern rocking horse, with saddle and stirrups, and a mane and tail of real hair. The rocking horse is not going out of fashion by a long ways, and I predict that in the horseless age, if that time ever comes, our children's children will be jerking the mane of a wooden 'horsey' and whipping him on his painted flanks, and trying to feed him crackers. Also, they'll be falling off his back and bumping their little foreheads in the old-fashioned way, and 'horsey' will have to be thrashed and locked up in the clothes closet for his bad behavior.

"And as for dolls, you've got to give them real 'baby dolls' and not grand ladies in the latest tango gowns and hats. For the last 50 years or so doting parents who are well to do have been trying the experiment of presenting their little girls with waxen fashion models—only to find the precious one crying for the rag baby of the laundress' daughter. Children show the real mother instinct when they spurn the 'play-child' which is too dressy and up to date.

"I have one friend, the father of a large and lively family. I make him happy every Christmas time by presenting his kids with a bunch of cheap, mechanical toys. After about half an hour of winding them up, the little ones tire of the clicking wonders and return to their woolly dogs, rubber dolls and other simple favorites. That is when father's fun begins. He insists on winding up the toys and running them all Christmas day, ostensibly for the pleasure of his youngsters. He does not cease winding until the toys begin to get out of order, and then he has the additional pleasure of trying to repair them.

Sometimes I think that a manufacturer could make a fortune selling toys just for grown-ups. Seeing a bunch of adults busy working mechanical toys reminds me of the time when the whole family insists on taking little Johnny to the circus.

A Christmas Carol

by

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

I HEAR along our street
Pass the minstrel throngs;
Hark! They play so sweet,
On their hautboys, Christmas songs!
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

IN December ring
Every day the chimes;
Loud the gleemen sing
In the streets their merry rhymes.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

SHEPHERDS at the grange,
Where the Babe was born,
Sang with many a change
Christmas carols until morn.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

THESE good people sang
Songs devout and sweet;
While the rafters rang,
There they stood with freezing feet.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

NUNS in frigid cells
At this holy tide,
For want of something else,
Christmas songs at times have tried.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

WHO by the fireside stands,
Stamps his feet and sings;
But he who blows his hands
Not so gay a carol brings.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

ANNUAL "HOLLER" DAY.

When children have their Christmas toys
The house will ring with laughter gay;
And thus, in truth, by girls and boys,
Is Christmas made a "holler" day.

HANGING MISTLETOE

Origin of Custom Associated With Christmas Festivities.

Plant Is Surrounded With Many Superstitions in European Countries —Sign of Ill Omen in Some Parts of Ireland.

THE good old custom of hanging mistletoe from the ceiling at the Christmas festivities is said to have its origin in the idea that since the plant did not have its roots in the ground no part of it should ever be permitted to touch the earth.

Among the Saxons the fact that mistletoe was suspended from the roof of a dwelling intimated to the wayfarer that the hospitality of the house was at his disposal, and beneath its branches friend and stranger, vassal and lord, gathered in comradeship and good cheer.

The religious aspect of the mistletoe tradition, which had its origin in the Druidical rites and the gathering of it by the archdruid with his golden sickle, merged later into a purely social symbol, and the idea of simple hospitality developed into one of merrymaking and a somewhat riotous entertainment.

The kiss of the Scandinavian goddess expanded into the custom of a kiss given for every berry that grew on the bough. Small wonder that, in spite of the mistletoe having originally existed in the odor of the sanctuary, the church came to regard it as an entirely pagan symbol and refused to allow it to participate with the lily and the evergreen in the Yuletide decorations.

There is an ancient belief that the mistletoe was the tree from which the holy cross was hewn and that after this was made the plant withered and ever afterward became a mere parasitic growth, clinging for support to other and sturdier trees.

Other stories, however, credit it with divine gifts in the healing of diseases and the expulsion of evil spirits.

Ram, the high priest of the Celts, received in a dream the intimation that by means of the plant he would be enabled to save his people from the plague which was decimating them. To celebrate their delivery he instituted the feast of Noel (new health), a midwinter holiday, which has come to be considered coincident with the new year.

In many parts of the United Kingdom the silver berries and the gray-green leaves of the mistletoe are looked upon as anything but an emblem of good cheer; on the contrary, the plant is regarded with dread as being the bringer of ill luck and the sign of ill omen. This superstition exists both in Devonshire and in Ireland, and, strange to say, in neither of these places does the plant flourish, owing, report has it, to the fact that both incurred the displeasure of the Druids and were in consequence cursed in such a way that their soil became incapable of nourishing the sacred growth.

In the sixth book of Aeneid a lengthy description of the mistletoe is given by Virgil, who makes the Sybil describe to his hero the exact spot in hades where he will find it growing. There is little doubt that the strange ethereal appearance of the little opaque berry is largely responsible for the mystic character it has enjoyed among the people of divers nations from the earliest historical times.

HE WAS THANKFUL.

"John," said the Loving Wife, "I intended to get you a nice new necktie for Christmas, but I am ashamed to acknowledge that in the rush of the shopping I completely forgot it."

"Thank you, nevertheless," said the Happy Husband.

Walrus Slaughter.

That the walrus is rapidly nearing extinction is the warning sounded by the Daily Industrial News of Nome, Alaska. That paper describes the slaughter caused by one crew in a single season. The catch amounted to 723, of which 420 were cows and calves. Many were fatally wounded or shot dead and never recovered. A full grown bull walrus weighs a ton. The walrus is a tempting bait to the hunter because of the amount of wealth found in his skin, the oil and the rich ivory in the tusks. The disappearance of the walrus means the extinction of the Eskimos, who depend largely on this animal for food supply, fuel, lights, boats and leather.

When Was He in the Legislature?

"The legislature, pa—?" "The average legislature, my son," replied J. Fuller Gloom, "is a debating society wherein nobody knows what he is talking about, and does not care anything about what anybody else is talking about."

Grim Wit of Douglas Jerrold.

Ugliest of trades have their moments of pleasure. If I were a gravedigger, or even a hangman, there are some people I could work for with a great deal of enjoyment.—Douglas Jerrold.

Perhaps He Had None.

A fellow has his face shaved, hair cut, shoes polished, clothes pressed and hat brushed, then pays no attention whatever to his dilapidated conscience.—Tpledo Blade.

Fatima Cigarettes —mild, delightful Turkish-Blend. The choicest of leaf—always a pure and wholesome smoke—always satisfactory.

"Distinctively Individual"

Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co.

20 for 15¢

That's Easy.

"Who was the first lightning calculator?"

"Ben Franklin and his kite."

RUB-MY-TISM

Will cure your Rheumatism and all kinds of aches and pains—Neuralgia, Cramps, Colic, Sprains, Bruises, Cuts, Old Sores, Burns, etc. Antiseptic Anodyne. Price 25c.—Adv.

The View.

"There is a story in that face!"

"You must be seeing it out of the tale of your eye."

At the First Signs

Of falling hair get Cuticura. It works wonders. Touch spots of dandruff and itching with Cuticura Ointment, and follow next morning with a hot shampoo of Cuticura Soap. This at once arrests falling hair and promotes hair growth. For free sample each with 32-p. Skin Book, address post card: Cuticura, Dept. X, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

Quite Old Fashioned.

"Did she marry well?"

"No; it was a case of true love."—Harvard Lampoon.

Important to Mothers

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it

Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher

In Use For Over 30 Years.

Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Paradoxical Result.

"What's the matter with my labor theories?"

"They won't work."

The Best Liniment.

For falls on icy walks, sprains and bruises, rub on and rub in Hanford's Balsam of Myrrh. Apply this liniment thoroughly and relief should quickly follow. Adv.

Logical Result.

"She has such a dogged expression."

"No wonder, with that pug nose."

COLDS & LaGRIPPE

5 or 6 doses 666 will break any case of Chills & Fever, Colds & LaGrippe; it acts on the liver better than Calomel and does not gripe or sicken. Price 25c—Adv.

When a woman discovers a silver strand among the gold she always says it is premature—but she thinks it's a shame.

YOUR OWN DRUGGIST WILL TELL YOU Try Murine Eye Remedy for Red, Weak, Watery Eyes and Granulated Eyelids; No Smarting—just Eye comfort. Write for Book of the Eye by mail Free. Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago.

A girl refuses to let a man kiss her because she knows that he will do it anyway.

Start the year by getting Hanford's Balsam. You will find frequent use for it. Adv.

You never believe a man when he flatters you, but you like to hear it just the same.

For sore feet rub on Hanford's Balsam. Adv.

Many a girl is a gem, in spite of the fact that she refuses to be cut.

For any cut use Hanford's Balsam. Adv.

Sometimes it is also a good rule that won't work both ways.

FOR OLD AND YOUNG

Tutt's Liver Pills act as kindly on the child, the delicate female or infirm old age, as upon the vigorous man.

Tutt's Pills

give tone and strength to the weak stomach, bowels, kidneys and bladder.

Build Up With Wintersmith's Tonic 50 year tested appetizer and general tonic. The old reliable remedy for malaria, chills and fever, colds and grip. 50c.

W. N. U., CHARLOTTE, NO. 52–1914.