



ALLIES GAIN GROUND IN WEST

GERMANS REPORT ONLY SAYS THE PURSUIT OF ENEMY CONTINUES--FAIL IN ATTEMPT TO CROSS VISTULA RIVER

Muscovite Forces Continue Operations, Offensive Being Pushed with Considerable Force in Old Flanders.

In the offensive operations of the allies in the Western war arena, interesting features are the loss in the neighborhood of Neuve Chapelle of several of the trenches recently captured by the British, and an advance by the East Indians toward Richebourg L'Avoue, as reported in the latest French official communication. This statement also indicates that the Germans have not been lacking in the offensive. It records, in addition, the annihilation of a German column at Lihons.

In the east the situation is still in doubt. According to the official Statement from Petrograd, the Germans have been repulsed in an attempt to cross the right bank of the Vistula River, in Poland, and fighting in the Bzura River district is developing. Regarding the victory which Germany was reported to have won in Poland, Berlin remains silent. Austria claims important successes in the battle at Lissanowa, in Galicia, where 26,000 Russians are said to have fallen into their hands.

A Berlin Dispatch says that Emperor William has paid a visit to the wounded soldiers in the hospital at Potsdam, which would indicate the Emperor's recovery from his illness, the nature of which has not been definitely known.

ANNUAL FEAST

Mr. Lonnie Smith, the jovial proprietor of the Exchange Hotel, entertained a host of his friends at supper Saturday night. The invited guests to the number of fifteen well known men about town gathered in the parlors, and after a hearty hand shake and a brief chat the doors of the spacious dining room swung open and all was merry. Mayor Thad G. Stem was given the seat at the head of the table with the following gentlemen on either side: Col. Ballou, Gen. B. S. Royster, A. A. Hicks, Judge Graham, Thornton W. Yancey, Dr. E. T. White, Earnest Parham, J. J. Medford, Calvin Breedlove, C. W. Bryant, Jack Haskins, Eugene Moss, Sam Watkins and D. A. Coble. It was a tempting menu of fresh meats, crackling bread and Java coffee, served in splendid style. Business, politics, law and order were discussed while the good things were being passed and the guests voted Mr. Smith a typical landlord and a jolly good fellow. Reassembling in the parlors with big Havana cigars between their fingers, a pleasant hour was spent in conversation.

During the evening Mr. and Mrs. Smith were complimented on the many improvements inaugurated during the year. Steam-heated, electric-lighted, with its telephone system and baths, the commercial travellers are singing the praise of the Exchange Hotel from one end of the state to the other, and deservedly so.

AMONG THE CHURCHES

There will be devotional services at the Oxford Baptist church and at St. Stephen Episcopal church at 11 o'clock Christmas morning.

Christmas tree exercises will be held at the Presbyterian church at 5:30 Wednesday afternoon, to which the public is cordially invited, provided that the Southern train gets in on time, says the pastor, Rev. S. K. Phillips.

All of the church choirs are arranging elaborate and appropriate musical programs for New Years. Mr. Pardq, a favorite in Oxford, will sing at the Presbyterian church on the first Sunday in January.

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

Mr. Thornton W. Yancey, Cashier of the National Bank of Granville, acknowledges the following amounts for the Belgian Relief Fund: Oxford Graded School, \$20.15; Mrs. Mary R. de Lacroix, \$1.00; Shakespeare Club, \$10.00; Mrs. W. A. Adams, \$15.00; Mrs. C. H. Landis, \$10.00; Mrs. C. H. Easton, \$5.00; Oxford Baptist Church, \$88.16; S. C. Hobgood, \$5.00.

\$250,000 ESTATE

Out of an estate of \$250,000 the late Noah Biggs, of Scotland Neck, left the following bequests: Thomasville Baptist Orphanage, \$30,000; Meredith College, Raleigh, \$20,000; Wake Forest College, Wake Forest, N. C., \$5,000, and Baptists State Convention, \$15,000.

THE FIRE BELL SOUNDS

A Lighted Cigarette Tossed Into a Cuspedor Kindles a Flame

A lighted cigarette tossed carelessly into a wooden cuspedor filled with saw dust came dangerously near involving the business section of Oxford in one mighty flame Tuesday morning.

A colored man passing along Hillsboro street from the Imperial Tobacco plant at 5 o'clock this Tuesday morning discovered the flame in the store of J. D. Brooks and gave the alarm. The firemen responded with their usual alertness and prevented what might have been the greatest fire in the history of Oxford.

As stated above, the timely arrival of a colored man averted a calamity. The town commissioners should provide a watchman for the business section of the town whose eyes should never slumber during his hours of vigil. No one knows the hour when the flame may break forth with such velocity and gain such headway that no human power can arrest it. Our property and our lives would be much safer if the commissioners would employ a good night watchman to patrol the business section.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

A Little Lady—A few days ago a little lady arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Thorp.

An Entertainment—There will be a Christmas entertainment at Rehoboth church, near Watkins, Tuesday, Dec. 29th, promptly at 12 o'clock. Public is invited. If there is falling weather that day, it will be the first good day afterwards.

Wish of "Brother Britt"—Here's to the dear girls and boys! May your joy be supreme, your every wish gratified, and your juvenile hearts aflame with the glory of it all. May the God of Love be with and bless you all.

Kindly Remembered—We acknowledge our thanks to Mrs. W. W. Brummitt for some choice sausage; Mr. J. T. Grissom for a nice hog hamlet and Mr. W. T. Curria for choice spareribs, which they so thoughtfully sent the "Old Man."

Liberal Children—It's pleasure to us to announce that the dear children at the Graded school on Friday contributed \$20.15 to the Belgium relief fund, thus denying themselves of some of their Christmas money. Noble children!

Hustling Young Farmer—Our young farmer friend, Roy Eakes, near Tar River, was on the tobacco market Friday and was much pleased at receiving for his load \$13, \$17, \$35, \$21 1/2, \$35, \$13 1/2, \$21, \$19—check amounted to 230.99.

Our Best Wishes—We are glad to have the privilege once more to greet our several thousand readers with a Merry Christmas. May your homes be bright, the dear children of your home happy, and the great wish and hope of your hearts in abundant measure be realized this joyous season.

Excellent Reputation—Judge Devin closes his work in this district this afternoon and rotates to the next one. He has made a most excellent reputation on the bench and people and bar regret to see him go. Against great odds he has managed at every term to get rid of a heavy docket or make great inroads in Greensboro.

About Mistletoe—The oaks upon which the mistletoe grew were sacred to the Druids in days of old and they used to worship under them in the most solemn and devout way. When hung up in a room or hall the beautiful pearly berries were thought to possess power of keeping away evil spirits and influences.

Messrs. Beverley Royster, Frank Hancock, Outlaw Hunt and James Taylor have returned from the State University to enjoy Christmas at their respective homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Jones, of Nashville, Tenn. are spending the joyous season with relatives in Granville, and we were pleased to receive a visit from Mr. Jones.

It matters not whether you be a large or a small tax payer, you are expected to make settlement won or collections will be forced. I am forced to collect the taxes.

S. C. HOBGOOD, Sheriff.

HAD YOU EVER THOUGHT OF IT?

What would be more appreciated for that Christmas present than a Perculator? We are selling them at cost while they last. Taylor Bros. 2t

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

About People and Things That Are of Interest to The Public Ledger Readers

GATHERED FROM THE TOWN AND COUNTY

Furniture Man—You are asked to read the Hughes-Smaw Co. "ad" on another page.

The Ice Co.—This Company has put down a new floor in their office room on Main street.

Hog it All—Praise properly bestowed is one of your best investments. But some people are so egotistical they want to hog it all.

"Time is Money"—This ought to be cheering news to the men of leisure who has Christmas presents to buy, and no ready cash.

Very True—It really requires a marvelous amount of tact to appear thankful at Christmas for something you don't want or need.

Hope So—May it be a Merry Christmas in fact as well as in name to you dear readers of the Public Ledger.

Administrator's Notice—We call the attention of our readers to the administrators' notice of B. S. Royster in another column.

Large Pigs—Mr. E. C. Harris, of Route 3, killed two pigs, 13 months old, a few days ago that weighed 422, and 426 and made 19 1/2 gallons of lard from them.

County Checks—We are requested by Mr. J. B. Powell, Register of Deeds, to say that he will pay the accounts due the people by the county just as soon as he can get them countersigned by the Treasurer.

Closing of Schools—We learn that the Graded schools in Oxford as well as the schools of the county will close today, Wednesday, and reopen on January 4th.

No Use to Kick—When it isn't a coal bill it is an ice bill, so there isn't very much difference no how. But how about the plumber's bill? On with the dancier.

To the Girls—Reserve a Christmas smile or two for the balding bachelors. They are truly objects of compassion and need to be cheered up by smiles that "Haunt me still."

Good Will to All—No matter what the past has been, or the future may bring forth, we shall harbor no unkind thought of any human being this Christmas.

Rain, Rain—December can be put down as a rainy month, and along with it it has rained for six Sundays. We take it that we are not behind on water.

Coming Home—All the dear boys and girls are coming home to spend the joyous season under the parental roof, and we wish each a happy Christmas.

Big Hogs—Mr. A. A. Latta, of Tar River, killed a hog a few days ago that tipped the beam at 524 pounds, and Mr. W. R. Bragg of the same place killed two that weighed 496 and 508 lbs.

Don't Forget the Children—The world's unselfish time is upon us. We all know the greatest happiness comes to ourselves when others are happy with our gifts, so don't forget the children.

A Million Fold—If wishes produced tangible results we would fill every home in Oxford and Granville county a million fold with Christmas cheer as they lay very close to the "old man's" heart.

Fine Pigs—Mr. A. L. Clayton, of Moriah, is a good pork raiser as he killed 4 pigs a few days ago that weighed 421, 418, 318 and 303 lbs. Mr. E. E. Hicks, of Route 1, killed two that weighed 360 and 330 lbs.

Merry Christmas—A Merry Christmas to you! A Merry Christmas to your friends! A Merry Christmas to our enemies! A Merry Christmas to everybody! And we are going to have our share, too.

That Banana Skin—Nay! Nay! We say, our charming Suzanna. No man ever goes on chewing his cud, when the skin of a banana makes him slip up and come down with a thud. So don't throw them on the side walks.

Will Observe Christmas—We are requested to state that the Banks of Oxford will observe Christmas holidays by closing on Friday. Those having business with these institutions will bear this in mind.

Rev. F. M. Shamburger—This able and beloved divine, arrived in Oxford Saturday to join Mrs. Shamburger in spending the happy season with their daughter, Mrs. Kerr Taylor, on Front street. He occupied the pulpit of the Methodist church Sunday morning and delivered a very able sermon to his old congregation, and they heard him gladly.

Powell's Soft Shell home raised Pecans for sale at Taylor Bros. 3t

COMING AND GOING

Personal Items About Folks and Their Friends Who Travel Here and There

SOME YOU KNOW AND SOME YOU DO NOT KNOW

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Dement, of Route 3, were town visitors Monday. Miss Thompson, teacher of the Curran school, was in Oxford Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Knott, of Route 1, were in town Monday.

Mr. Howard Dorsey, of Route 3, was a town visitor Saturday.

Messrs. Will and R. S. Howard, of Route 4, were in town Saturday.

Mr. Hillman Cannady returned Saturday from a business trip.

Miss Annie Furman has returned home to spend the holidays.

Mr. J. A. Belcher, of Route 3, was in Oxford Saturday.

Mr. Tom Barnes spent the week end with friends near Henderson.

Mr. Thomas Pace has returned home for the Christmas holidays.

Miss Elizabeth Hancock is at home for the joyous season.

Mr. A. S. Carrington, of Stem Route 1, was in Oxford Saturday.

Miss Oza Taylor is at home to enjoy the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Ed Green, of Dexter section, was on our streets Saturday.

Mr. Ben Hunt, of Route 3, was among the throng in town Saturday.

Mr. T. A. Royster, of Bullock, was on our streets Saturday.

Mr. Peter Pruitt, of Route 4, was on our streets Saturday.

Mr. J. W. Renn, of Route 3, was in Oxford Saturday.

Messrs. Rux and "Rat" Cannady, of Route 1, were in Oxford Saturday.

Mr. Benton Jones, of Creedmoor, section was on our streets Saturday.

Messrs. R. R. Strother and Thos. Husketh, of Wilton, were among the throng in town Monday.

Mr. W. T. Curria and son Garland, of Tar River, were on our streets Monday.

Miss Eita Washington, of Tally Ho, was among the Oxford shoppers Monday.

Messrs. M. S. Geo. Whitfield, of Stem section, were on our streets Monday.

Miss Marie Burwell has returned to her home on Broad street for the holidays.

The Misses Salls are at their home near Oxford for the Christmas holidays.

Miss Mary and Clara Renn, two of Route 6's attractive young ladies, were on our streets Saturday.

OUT IN THE DAMP COLD AIR

THOSE WHO GO TO THE SEABOARD STATION TO MEET FRIENDS COMING IN ON EVENING TRAIN FIND THE WAITING ROOM CLOSED

PRESUMABLE FALSE PRETENSE.

A Colored Man Secures Considerable Money and His Whereabouts is not Known

It now appears that a colored man giving his name as Robert Burroughs, claiming to live in Granville county, turned up during the summer and borrowed considerable money from our warehousemen on the promise of marketing his crop of tobacco with them. The amount of money thus secured is not known, but it is probably more than \$500.

When the season began to wear along the warehousemen with one accord began to make inquiries about the said Robert Burroughs, but the best of them took off their hats and scratched their heads in a thoughtful mood, but the image or whereabouts of the gay and festive Robert did not cross their minds. Growing more and more impatient, the warehousemen send out a drag net to the four corners of the county, but the meshes were not close enough to rake him in.

Asked as to what kind of a looking man this Robert Burroughs is, one warehouseman replied that he was "a little black saved-off devil," but a more charitable warehouseman said that he could not exactly place him in his mind.

DEATH OF MISS LUDIE NORWOOD

Succumbed to Typhoid Fever—Interment at Bullock Sunday Afternoon

Miss Ludia Norwood, a beautiful young girl just blooming into womanhood, died at the home of her aunt, Mrs. B. F. Frazier, at the old Stradley home on Front street Saturday night after a brief illness of Typhoid fever.

She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Norwood and it is indeed sad to see one so beautiful and noble cut down in she diffused sunshine everywhere she went and it was indeed a pleasure to be in her company.

Miss Norwood was a member of Bullock Baptist church and the entire countryside gathered at the grave Sunday afternoon, where she was laid to rest. Dr. R. H. Marsh, pastor of the deceased, said the last sad rites.

The Public Ledger extends deep sympathy to the grief stricken parents in the loss of their dear daughter.

The floral tribute was profuse and beautiful.

WASHINGTON SOCIAL SET

The social column of the Washington Post contains the following: "The first of a series of subscription dances planned for this season by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, was given Tuesday evening at the Confederate Home, 1322 Vermont avenue. Mrs. Josephus Daniels was one of the patronesses and among those dancing were Miss Lassiter, of Oxford and Miss White, of Newbern."

WARNING FROM FIRE CHIEF

Just at this season of the year the young people celebrate, it is well to caution every one to be double careful with fire. Light, inflammable decorations make fires easy to start and easy to spread. A match, a gas flame or an electric defect may do it. Every year in America many children are burned to death by fires from Christmas candles.

Do not decorate your Christmas tree with paper, cotton or any other inflammable material. Use metallic tinsel and other non-inflammable decorations only, and set the tree securely so that the children in reaching for things cannot tip it over.

Do not use cotton to represent snow. If you must have snow use asbestos fibre.

Do not permit children to light or relight the candles while parents are not present. They frequently set fire to their clothing instead.

Do not leave matches within reach of children at holiday time. Candles are meant to be lighted, and if the children can get matches they will experiment with them. They imitate their elders.

Do not allow trees to remain inside buildings after the holidays. The tree itself ignites readily when the needles have become dry. A large number of fires usually occur in January from this cause.

A House of Merriment is better than a House of Mourning. J. ROBT. WOOD, Chief Fire Dept.

To See Ladies Standing Out in a Drenching Rain Waiting for Belated Trains Speaks Bad for Management.

We met a well known citizen on the street about 8 o'clock Saturday evening and he detained us just long enough to denounce the Seaboard Railroad in broad and unmistakable terms. "Let me tell you," he said, "that I saw something a few minutes ago that caused my blood to boil." What he saw was a plenty, and his object in detaining us for a moment was with a view of bringing the matter before the public.

The very thing that he complained of has existed for a long time, but no one seems to have given it any attention until the damp cold weather set in.

Coming up Gilliam street, about 7:30 Saturday night, our informant saw a couple of ladies and gentlemen standing in front of the Seaboard station. They had gone to the station to meet friends, and finding the door of the waiting room closed they stood out in the rain and the cold. When they could stand it no longer they went to a side window, raised it, and a boy crawled in and opened the door.

These are the bare facts in the case as given to us. Some one, high or low, in the great Seaboard system is negligent to duty. Whether it is a sweeping order from headquarters to retrench, or whether the porter at the station is not complying with the rules and regulations we are not advised. But to see ladies standing out in front of the passenger station in the wet and the cold, waiting for belated trains speaks very bad for the management, to say the least.

AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY

A pretty and unique service was observed by the Oxford Baptist Sunday school this year to brighten and cheer the hearts of the children of the Baptist orphanage at Thomasville. The name of each child at the orphanage was secured. These names were handed individually to the members of the Sunday school, who were permitted to send some useful present to the name designated. And thus we find, for example, a package in the lot addressed to "Tommy Strand, Baptist Orphanage, from his old friend Robert Roy, of Oxford."

The presents were all assembled at the church and were shipped to the children in ample time to reach them Christmas Eve.

There was something beautiful and fascinating about the ceremony as it brought two young people together in name and heart though they have never met personally. The little orphan receiving the present will always feel that he has a friend in Oxford, and in our estimate of this friendship let us not forget that "from little acorns tall trees grow."

FINE CHURCH CHOIR

In his rambling talk about the Baptist State Convention held in Raleigh last week, Mr. Archibald Johnson, editor of Charity and Children says:

"The President of the Convention is the most courteously and graciously gentleman in the body. He is a master of parliamentary law, and while he compels strict observance of the rules of the Convention he does so with kindly grace. We hope he may serve as long as did that master of assemblies, R. H. Marsh."

"The choir of the First Baptist church of Raleigh is said to be the finest in the state and the members of the Convention are prepared to accept the statement as true."

"CHRISTMAS SPECIALS"

Fruit cake, Plum Pudding, Mince meat, Seeded Raisins, Citrons, Figs, Currants, Shelled Almonds, Shelled Peacans, Shelled Walnuts, Lettuce, Cranberries, Celery, Asparagus Tips, Bananas, Oranges, Grape Fruit, Malaga Grapes and Oysters. Phone 115, TAYLOR BROS., Oxford. 2t.

AT HOME FROM SCHOOL

Our boys and girls have come trooping home from schools and colleges all over the State to spend the holidays with their parents. Their coming sounds a note of joy in the community and the homes are enlivened by their presence. All of the student body of Oxford College and quite a number of the teachers left for their homes last Saturday. Their bright faces and cherry voices will be missed during the holidays.