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# The Daily Gate City.

THE WEATHER  
Probably Snow. Colder. Local temp.—7 p. m. 24; 7 a. m. 30

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EIGHT PAGES

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

### NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS WITH PLENTY OF SNOW

Santa Claus Orders Out His Reindeers and Sleigh For Tonight's Jaunt to the Chimneys of Good Little Children.

### OLD FASHIONED WEATHER EVERYWHERE

This Will be a White Christmas All Over the United States With a Mantle of Snow Covering the Map.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Santa Claus took a squint at the weather today and ordered out his reindeers and sleigh for tonight's jaunt. It's to be a "white Christmas" everywhere in the country, where it's cold enough to freeze, the weather bureau declared today in its Christmas forecast. Snow is falling today everywhere east of the Mississippi valley in the northern states. Heavy rains in the gulf and southern states were reported. Today's general snowfall in the great lakes, upper Ohio, upper Mississippi and middle Atlantic states will continue all day and night, almost everywhere the forecast stated. Tomorrow morning the snow will stop for a clear, cold Christmas under a blanket of snow. North of Virginia on the Atlantic the snow fall is to be quite heavy. Much colder weather in the northern half of the country tomorrow east of the Mississippi is predicted. Cold wave warnings for lake states, Ohio, Ind., and southern Michigan were issued today. Slow progress of the cold wave eastward by Friday night or Saturday morning is in prospect.

In England. London, Dec. 24.—For a period of thirty or forty hours, beginning at 2 o'clock this afternoon (9 a. m., New York time), England will turn its attention of consideration of Christmas and will receive no war news. The war press bureau closed this afternoon and there will be no news issued until 9 o'clock tomorrow night. In the meantime the censorship will remain in force, however, permitting the transmission of unofficial news and such official statements as may be issued from other countries, but England will be officially silent. British papers will not publish on Christmas day.

Every possible measure has been taken to spread the Christmas cheer of England to her fighting men in the trenches of France and Belgium and on the sea. As a result of the efforts of Princess Mary, a fund of more than \$500,000 was raised to provide gifts for the fighting forces. Every sailor and soldier and every wounded man in the British service will also receive a card carrying the personal Christmas greeting from their majesties, the king and queen. Transports laden with great quantities of warm clothing, blankets of every description and other gifts have crossed the channel safely during the past week and landed their Christmas cargoes for distribution along the battle front. Whatever influence Christmas day

may have over fighting between the French, British and Germans, it is practically certain the bitter conflict in Poland will proceed tomorrow. The Russian Christmas does not come until January 7 and the German troops in Poland will probably be given little opportunity for celebrations. It is believed there may be partial cessation of fighting in the west, but it is generally thought that neither General Joffre nor General French will permit sentiment to interfere with operations should strategic necessity make continued fighting advisable.

At Washington. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The Christmas spirit ruled in the nation's capital today. From President Wilson to the minor departmental clerk, the spirit of Kris Kringle radiated.

The president personally presented, with his compliments, turkeys to every employe of the white house and grounds, the clerical force alone excepted, twelve pound turkeys. To those in the white house with whom he is intimately associated there were more personal remembrances. And so far as possible he refrained from active work, devoting much time to the preparation for the family reunion that will mark the holiday season for him; the first since the death of Mrs. Wilson.

With the war responsible for changes in the diplomatic set, the intimate gifts that in the past have been exchanged between the various diplomatic representatives were today a thing of the past. Representatives of warring nations had all decided that they would devote the money usually expended in this way and in entertainment, to aiding the war sufferers. In nearly all of the departments of the government special Christmas exercises were held. In accordance with custom, all of the departments closed down at one o'clock in order that those clerks who so desired could complete belated shopping, while others, who wanted to spend the holidays in New York or Atlantic City and nearby resorts, were able to get an early start. The municipality itself will have a community celebration tonight. On the east plaza of the capitol there has been erected a sixty foot Virginia pine tree which has been handsomely decorated. About it commencing at 5 o'clock will be exercises appropriate to the occasion. The marine band will play. A chorus of 1,000 trained voices will sing Christmas carols while a series of tableaux will be presented commemorative of

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### The War at a Glance

Summarized by John Edwin Nevin, United Press Staff Correspondent.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] FRANCE—Advance in Belgium by mining dunes. German attacks repulsed and Belgians advance south of Dixmude. German attacks at all points repulsed and French advancing in the Argonne and Woerre regions.

ENGLAND—Official press bureau closes and no war news to be issued from 2 o'clock this afternoon to 9 o'clock Friday night.

RUSSIA—Reinforcements being rushed forward to check German ad-

vance southwest of Warsaw, which necessitated a withdrawal from Cracow. Attacks upon main line of advance toward Warsaw repulsed.

AUSTRIA—Archduke Eugene succeeds General Potiorek as commander of Austria's army. Development of new battles along entire eastern front reported.

GERMANY—German aeroplane drops bombs upon Dover and escapes in fog.

### FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PARIS, Dec. 24.—Even the fighting men in the foremost trenches will tomorrow receive some sort of Christmas gift from his home. Transports laden with gifts reached the front today. Despite the fact that the Christmas spirit has now certainly spread along the battle front with the appearance of gifts from home, there was brisk fighting today. Heavy cannonading was in progress and more than one transport carrying wine which will be received by the French soldiers tomorrow, had close calls from bursting shells.

France is now armed financially fully for the continuance of the war for six months more by appropriation of \$100,000,000 by the chamber of deputies. The total subscribed to date is \$3,040,000,000. It developed today that six socialist deputies in districts now occupied by the Germans voted in favor of war credits by proxy. Deputy Pascal now held as a prisoner of war by the Germans, also cast a vote by proxy, as did Deputy DeFontaine, who is held as a hostage by the enemy. The advance of the French and English through French and Belgium now amounting to from four to eight miles at various points, has been maintained and all positions have been thoroughly protected against possible counter attacks.

#### OFFICIAL REPORT.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—Advances are being made in Belgium, near the coast, by the mining of sand dunes. This is reported today in the official communiqué which announces the repulse of all German attacks along the battle front. The Belgians have gained ground on the right bank of the Yser, south of Dixmude.

The official statement today does not report extensive advances along the wide front such as previous communiqués of the week have announced. The number of German counter at-

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### ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, Dec. 24.—A German aeroplane today dropped bombs upon the British port of Dover.

Guns in the fortifications at the famous port fired upon the hostile aircraft, but latest reports indicate that the aeroplane probably escaped. Dover is but sixty miles from London.

A heavy fog prevailed today which aided the German aeroplane in making its escape. A British machine took to the air to pursue the enemy, but failed to overtake the hostile craft. No damage is reported.

[This is really the second attack that has been made upon Dover by German aeroplanes. Mail advices from private sources received by the United Press lately told of the appearance of two aeroplanes over Dover. Nothing to this attack was permitted to be cable from England. Little damage was done on the first attack. Bombs were dropped by the aviators but all landed in the outer fortifications. The guns of the forts fired on the aeroplanes but they escaped and the aviators are said to have been awarded the iron cross by the kaiser.]

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### JAPAN

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] TOKIO, Dec. 24.—Parliament today rejected the request of the cabinet for increased appropriation to enable the government to maintain a larger army. As a result it is expected the cabinet will dissolve parliament tomorrow and trust to a popular election to gain the support of the country. The opposition to the cabinet program is due to the opinion generally expressed by members of parliament that the country cannot bear the additional financial burden asked.

Many also express a fear that the government, if it obtains an authorization for an enlargement of the army, intends to send troops to Europe to aid the allies.

### GERMANY

[By Karl H. Von Weigand, United Press Staff Correspondent.] GENERAL HEADQUARTERS OF EASTERN GERMAN ARMY, Dec. 18. (Via London, Dec. 24.)—Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, Germany's greatest military commander, gives to his men the credit for the victories he has earned.

"With troops of the courage and endurance of my army, I must succeed," was the statement of the famous leader of the eastern army, today.

"It would be untimely to say that the Russians are completely beaten and broken," said the field marshal. "They are fighting bravely and well." Neither Field Marshal Von Hindenburg nor General Hinderdorff, his chief of staff, have any illusions as to what is before the German army in Poland. They both declared there would be much hard fighting in the campaign against Warsaw but they have the utmost confidence in final success.

Throughout the advance of the German army through Poland, Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's forces have been opposed by a vastly superior number of Russians. In telling of the fighting which has resulted in the retirement of Russians before Warsaw, the German commander said: "Considerable factors in the success of my armies against the numerical superiority of the Russians are the railways which make possible such quick movements of the Germans. But my troops have shown the utmost courage and endurance in battle and during the long marches which have been made. With such troops I must succeed."

"The Russians have great numbers of men. Considering their defective railways they have often made very quick movement of troops."

Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is an extraordinary type of man. Rugged and vigorous, he has so manipulated his numerically weaker forces over the railways so as to check the Russian advance upon German territory through Poland and finally to hurl them back upon their own defenses.

The Germans are constantly shifting their forces to deliver new blows. They forced the Slav to give way for thirty-five miles on a line running from Lodz and Lodz to Cracow. The new Russian position is but twenty miles from Warsaw.

Field Marshal Von Hindenburg said there were between thirty and forty Russian army corps (approximately 1,200 or 1,600 men) opposed to the German and Austrian line which stretched over the front of 250 miles. Since November 13 Germans have captured 110,000 Russians. Russians have suffered losses in killed, wounded, prisoners; the field marshal said. "The heavy casualties which they suffered in three battles during the last four weeks resulted in the breaking of Russian offensive and resistance along the entire line."

The Germans are now on the offensive throughout the front. Russians today made two counter attacks but were repulsed.

Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is now receiving attentions which come only to a popular hero. He receives daily 300 or 400 letters from admirers of his military prowess. Many of these come from America, but many more are from Germans expressing their gratitude for the banishment of the danger of a Russian invasion of the fatherland. Presents of every description are also being showered upon the field marshal and the men of his army. Only last week 5,000 bottles of beer were sent to the army headquarters as a gift.

#### OFFICIAL REPORT.

BERLIN, (via wireless to London), Dec. 24.—After several days fighting, Milawa, in northern Poland has been recaptured by the Germans, an official statement issued here today asserted.

It was in this region that the Germans were repulsed recently and withdrew beyond the east Prussian frontier on a line from Lautenburg to Neidenburg.

The retirement was declared to be due to the numerical superiority of the Russian forces which were encountered. The statement today said that German troops have now assumed the offensive from Neidenburg to Soldau, half way to Lautenburg, and that the Russians have been repulsed. Over 1,000 prisoners were taken.

Of the operations on the western front, the official statement admitted the evacuation of a position in the region of Chalons where the trenches

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### RUSSIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PETROGRAD, Dec. 24.—Great forces of Russians are being poured into Poland between Kielce and Radom today, as well as to the south in an effort to check the German advance which has forced a retirement from Cracow.

The success of the Austro-German movement from the region of Pietrkow it is now admitted, resulted in threatening the communications of the army about Cracow. This was followed by a retirement of Russians in the south, thirty miles to the east of Cracow. The advances of the Germans was directed toward the main railway line from Ivangorod, running southeastward to Mieschow along which the Russian movement upon Cracow was conducted. The general withdrawal of the Russians from the Vistula to Galicia has now placed their main line of defense within twenty miles of Warsaw on their right wing. The retirement to the south straightened the Russian line which now presents an unbroken front extending over 160 miles.

German attempts to force a passage of the Bzura and Rawka rivers in their main attack upon Warsaw have been repulsed. The Russian artillery has swept all points at which a crossing might be made, for three days. Skierniewice has been reached by the Germans, but the Russians have taken up strong position east of that point.

Westward from the Donajec valley the battle against the Austrian line is gradually developing into an engagement of great proportions.

#### Christmas Carols.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 24.—"Ye ancient custom" of singing Christmas carols in the streets on Christmas eve is to be revived in Cleveland tonight. Groups of school children were busy today practicing the songs which they will sing throughout prosperous residential section after dusk in hope of collecting a few dollars to feed and clothe the city's poor. The plan was originated by Cleveland charity and mission workers.

### AUSTRIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] VIENNA, (via Berlin and London), Dec. 24.—Archduke Eugene, devout cousin of Emperor Franz Josef, has succeeded General Potiorek as commander of the Austrian army which was recently driven from Servia.

This was officially announced today in a statement explaining the withdrawal of Austrians of the invaded territory. The statement also asserted: "After successful fighting, the chief commander decided on account of immense difficulties, to withdraw from Servia. Our troops, however, were not broken and not beaten. They are ready for further fighting, but naturally the withdrawal meant serious losses in men and war material. Servian reports of our losses are greatly exaggerated."

#### NEW BATTLE LINE.

VIENNA, (via Berlin and London), Dec. 24.—The development of a new battle along the entire front is reported in the war report issued here today. "Operations in the Carpathians are taking a normal course. Yesterday we took 300 prisoners and pressed forward further in a northeasterly direction. Towards the Ludkov passes our attacks gained some ground for us."

"There is stubborn fighting near Krosno, Jaslo and Tuchow in western Galicia and also along the lower Donajec."

"At the Nida, the Rawka and Bzura rivers fighting continues. Fresh battles are taking place along the whole front."

### TURKEY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] ATHENS, Dec. 24.—A French destroyer today bombarded the Turkish troops concentrating at Kuekli, near the Dardanelles. Turkish guns replied to the fire from the destroyer, but without effect, and the troops were dispersed.

### ENEMY HOVER OVER DOVER, DROP BOMB AND ESCAPE

Aeroplane Crossed the English Channel and Disappeared in the Fog After Being Chased By a British Aviator.

### NO DAMAGE WAS DONE BY ATTACK

German Airman Made Thrilling Voyage Through the Clouds But Spilled His Ammunition in a British Garden.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, Dec. 24.—A bomb was dropped upon the city of Dover by a German aeroplane today. Having evidently crossed the North sea from Belgium, the hostile aircraft circled over England's famous port and after dropping the bomb which exploded in a garden, made off toward the sea and escaped. The official statement issued from the war office, telling of the attack, stated that no damage was done. The German aircraft was pursued by a British aeroplane, but escaped in the fog.

The war office statement declares: "One of the enemy's aeroplanes was seen over Dover at 10:55 this morning. A bomb was dropped which exploded in a garden and no damage was done."

"The aeroplane flew out to sea, followed by a British aircraft, but the pursuit was unsuccessful. The weather was foggy."

Dover has one of the greatest harbors of England. A great granite pier thrown out into the sea and other works resulted in improving the port as a great refuge place. The town is enclosed by chalk cliffs and on these are the strong forts defending the harbor and city. Dover is across the channel from the French port of Calais and is one of the principal ports of England for communication with the continent.

#### Aimed at Castle.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—A bomb dropped by a German aeroplane which flew over Dover today, fell within 400 yards of the famous Dover castle. The ap-

pearance of the aeroplane and the bomb dropping was admitted in an official statement issued from the war office. Though only slight damage was done, the bomb was aimed at the castle.

Great holes were torn in the ground by the bomb which landed in a garden. A few windows were smashed by the explosion of the bomb, and the garden only 400 yards from the castle, was ploughed up.

#### Pope Hopes for Peace.

ROME, Dec. 24.—Pope Benedict clings to the hope of early peace in Europe, despite the failure of his first efforts and the rejection of his proposal for a Christmas truce. At the Christmas reception to the members of the college today, his holiness declared that he would continue to work for peace despite the failure of previous attempts to bring the war to an end.

"I shall never cease doing all in my power for war-suffering humanity," the pope said, "and I have a firm conviction in my heart that with the help of God, peace will soon come."

#### Portugal's Part.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The latest German invasion of Angola, the Portuguese-African province is officially acknowledged, according to a Lisbon dispatch received here today. Germans are declared to have approached Natul with artillery and 1,000 men. The Portuguese garrison was engaged for a short time in delivering a counter

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### What the War Moves Mean

By J. W. T. Mason, Former European Manager of the United Press.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, Dec. 24. (11 a. m.)—Austria's official announcement that the Servian campaign has been abandoned, gives formal acquiescence to the complete success of the amazingly developed Serb counter offensive. But more significant than this, is the succession that Austria is unable to continue the campaign in Servia. Resumption of attack would have been coupled with a declaration of defeat. That such is not the case, strongly suggests a pressing need for Austrian reinforcements in Galicia. More troops, seemingly must be hurried north to the Carpathians instead of south to Servia, for which reason, the Serb territory is now safe from a new invasion.

Berlin confirms this impression by announcing the development of a new Russian aggressive movement in Galicia and particularly along the Carpathians. The most important task of the war for Austria is to keep the Hungarian side of the Carpathians free of Slavs. Otherwise the discontent in Hungary will probably reach a climax causing the separatist movement to develop into an open revolt against the Hapsburg rule.

Since Hungarian discontent has shown itself to be so susceptible of fomentation by Cossack invaders, it would appear as if higher strategic requirements demand the development of a new Russian offensive in the Hungarian plains. This, seemingly, is what the Slavs are now trying to do.

With the way to Berlin so effectively blocked by the genius of Von Hindenburg, it is becoming evident that a threat against Budapest is the next best contribution to the allied cause that Russia can make.

If the Russians have decided to attempt a new invasion of Hungary as their chief offensive for the present, this would explain the contradiction concerning the Cracow siege which prevails in Petrograd dispatches. One message says the Russians are raising their investment of the former capital of Poland for the purpose of reinforcing Warsaw defenses; another dispatch asserts heavy reinforcements are moving toward Cracow. A reconciliation of these two movements would result if a new Hungarian campaign is planned. In that case troops withdrawn from Cracow would not be for use at Warsaw, but would be under instructions for a Carpathian offensive; similarly reinforcements supposed at Petrograd to be moving on Cracow, would have Hungary as their real objective. Petrograd has consistently shown itself to be badly informed concerning developments of the campaign and the actual reason for a new movement of troops in the Galician area might well be misinterpreted by Petrograd correspondents, although the bare fact of a rearrangement of forces might be known. It is possible this is what has occurred in the present instance and the new Galician activity in reality means a new Hungarian campaign is being arranged afresh.