

MARKET STREET BEGINS TO GROAN UNDER WEIGHT OF CHRISTMAS PACKAGES



This week opens the rush period for the drivers and helpers of the delivery wagons for the big stores. This was a scene photographed in the heart of the shopping district today, where mountains of bundles were piled up awaiting delivery to those who were thoughtful enough to do their shopping early.

GREECE HOVERS ON WAR-BRINK

Allies' Envoys Remove Belongings and Order Nationals to Leave

GERMANS PLAN DRIVE

LONDON, Dec. 11. A report from Athens this afternoon states that the ultimatum which the Allied Governments will present to the Greek Government tomorrow will demand:

- First—Complete disarmament of the Greek army.
Second—Full control of the postal and telegraph services in Greece.
Third—That all railway lines and shipping stock be turned over to the Allied military authorities.

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WOULD GIVE JOB TO LEAGUE ISLAND

Secretary Daniels Asks That Yard Be Equipped for Speedy Work

BATTLE CRUISER PROBLEM

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—Secretary of the Navy, Daniels, testifying before the House Naval Affairs Committee today, declared that the Philadelphia Navy Yard should be equipped for the construction of two first-class battleships at one time. He said that Government yards should be in a position to build at least half the naval program. Mr. Daniels said:

For a month we have been sweating blood over the battle cruisers. The private yards are so confident that they can build them for ourselves that they say we must come to their terms. They are always opposed to any change in the type of ships and just now, with so much private work, they are not at all anxious to tackle these big battle cruisers. However, I haven't the least doubt that we could place the other two in private yards at once.

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RUMANIANS HIT BACK; RETAKE LOST DEFENSES

Recapture Ploesti - Mizilu Positions in Vigorous Counter-Attacks

BERLIN CLAIMS GAINS

PETROGRAD, Dec. 11. By vigorous counter-attacks Rumanian forces have won back positions along the high road from Ploesti to Mizilu, which they lost to the enemy on Saturday, today's official statement asserted.

The Teutonic attacks of Saturday pressed the Rumanians back, but early Sunday the Rumanians restored themselves after vigorous offensives. The battle along this line is still in progress.

In Dobruja, the statement detailed reciprocal firing along the Danube. Southeast of the Pomerania region and around the village of Jesechovka, an enemy offensive was repulsed by fire, the statement said; detailing operations along the Carpathian front. In the region of Valeputna and also in the valley of the Trotush the enemy offered stubborn resistance to the Russian offensive, meeting the Russian advance with a violent fire and frequent counter-attacks, which were unsuccessful.

The mountains along the whole front are deep in snow and the frost is heavy.

LONDON, Dec. 11. The resistance of the retreating Rumanians has stiffened and violent fighting is in progress between Ploesti and Buzeu. Dispatches from the Rumanian front today indicated that the Rumanians have again been re-enforced by Russians.

Two Austro-German squadrons have been annihilated by the Rumanians in battles east of Ploesti, according to a wireless dispatch from Petrograd today. It adds that the Teutonic forces in eastern Wallachia have been driven back several kilometers. Detachments of German allies that

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LLOYD GEORGE STIRS ENGLAND WITH NEW LIFE

Democracy's Reply to Autocracy's Challenge Seen in Present Regime

MEANS FIGHT TO FINISH

LONDON, Dec. 11. The energizing force of Lloyd George's magic touch has within five days electrified the British nation.

While the war dictator was today forced to his bed with a chill brought on by a fortnight of twenty-hour working days, London was in a fever of enthusiasm for new orders. That the most cursed—and most respected—figure in the last half century of British politics is to have the full force of the British nation behind him in whatever he does became evident today.

Not only the press of the nation, but the faces of every man, woman and street urchin reflected the fact.

The seemingly impossible has been accomplished. The hard shell of British conservatism has been cracked. Veneration for precedent and the thing which "is done" has gone into the discard. For the first time since August 1, 1914, John Bull is looking forward, not stumbling along with his glance back over his shoulder.

While the German press is referring with contempt to the new British "dictators," Englishmen—even staunch conservatives of the Northcliffe type—are visualizing the new development as democracy's greatest triumph of the century.

Moreover, it is apparent that Lloyd George is no man's man but his own. Charges of newspaper antagonism to the Welshman that he was the mere tool of Lord Northcliffe have been effectively dispelled by Lloyd George's choice of two men in his ministry who have been particularly under the fire of the Northcliffe newspapers—Arthur J. Balfour and Lord Robert Cecil.

In the rise of Lloyd George to the supreme command the British people see a

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HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS RUN AWAY AND WED

Effort at Secrecy Fails at Boy's Mother's Quizzing—Called From Classes

The runaway marriage of two high school students was discovered today through word from Baltimore. John C. Bailey, twenty years old, of 2541 North Thirty-third street, and Gladys B. Griffiths, eighteen, of 5718 North Nineteenth street, are the newly-weds. Bailey is a senior at Northeast High School; his wife is a junior at William Penn High School. Some time on Saturday they ran away to Baltimore, got a marriage license and were married.

They stayed in Baltimore only long enough to be married, and then came quietly back to Philadelphia without saying a word to any one. Sunday and this morning word to any one. Sunday and this morning word to any one. Sunday and this morning word to any one.

The victim, believed to be named Ostrowitz, was dragged from the water shortly after midnight by Detective Fennier, of the Tacony station, who was attracted by splashing. After having his wounds and burns treated at the Frankford Hospital, he told his story to Lieutenant of Detectives Wood at City Hall, through an interpreter, Policeman William Hobb. He was understood with difficulty, as he is illiterate and is not a master of the sign language.

Detectives learned through the interpreter that as he was crossing the bridge he was held up by two negroes armed with a pistol and a bottle. When he showed fight they threw acid into his face, rifled his pockets and, after beating him, threw him into the creek. He is a Brooklyn tinsmith with a wife and three children and came here to look for work.

The Detective Bureau communicated with the Brooklyn police and put men on the trail of the bandits. An empty bottle that contained acid was found on the bridge. Dr. John Wassamaker, 34, police surgeon, said that the fall into the water saved the victim from being burned instantly. As it is one eye was so badly burned that it is believed it will become blind.

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SIX INJURED IN PANIC AS FIRE SWEEPS CAR

Women Shoppers Jump From Windows of Blazing Train Near Gloucester

Six persons were injured and panic followed when fire started on the Glanboro express of the Pennsylvania Railroad's electric line today as it sped into the station at Gloucester at 9:15 o'clock.

The blaze was discovered in the lavatory when the train, which consisted of three coaches and an express car, approached Gloucester. Women jumped to their feet and broke windows with their fists. Their first thoughts were of the children, and they passed them through the broken windows as the car reached the station. The women followed, leaving all their belongings behind. The injured are:

- MRS. MARY TYLER, Pitman Grove, cuts on arm and shoulder.
MRS. JOSEPH SMITH, Westville, cuts on arm and shoulder.
MRS. NELLIE FLINT, South Gloucester, cuts on arm and leg.
MRS. ELIZABETH TRAGER, Gloucester, cuts on left leg.
MRS. JANE CARTER, Therefore, cuts head, legs and arms.
MRS. HARRY ELLENGER, Westville, cuts on arm and shoulder.

The blazing car, which was next to the baggage coach, was filled with men, women and children, many of whom were on the way to Philadelphia to do Christmas shopping. The train crew tried to quiet them, but their efforts were in vain. While some endeavored to be calm, the first crash of glass around them to action as the flames crept nearer. Policemen Harvey and Blackburn carried several women from the car after they had fainted from fright. The injured passengers were attended by Dr. L. D. Haley and Dr. L. D. Lapp, of Gloucester.

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QUICK NEWS

SHORT CIRCUIT CAUSES P. R. T. EXPLOSION
Short circuit of a high tension cable of the P. R. T. system at Twelfth and Spring Garden streets this afternoon caused an explosion that shot a tower of flame and water into the air for twenty minutes, blew the top off a trolley pole and broke several windows in the vicinity.

LONDON ADVANCES WAR RISK INSURANCE
NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—London has advanced rates on war risk insurance from five to ten per cent for transatlantic and Good Hope business. Fifteen per cent was asked on a shipment to Havre.

COTTON BREAKS BADLY ON GOVERNMENT'S CROP ESTIMATE
NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—A sensational break occurred in the prices for cotton today following the publication of the Government's estimate of the crop for the last season. Active positions went off more than \$5 a bale.

ADAMSON ACT TEST IN SUPREME COURT JANUARY 8

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—In response to demands for early decision in the railroad case brought to test the Adamson eight-hour day law, the Supreme Court today advanced the case for argument on January 8. The Government suit against the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf Railway Company, the case selected to test the law, will govern all cases brought by the railroads all over the country to prevent the enforcement of the law. The Federal District Courts in Missouri held that the law was unconstitutional and enjoined its enforcement. Representatives of the railroad have stipulated that no effort shall be made to enforce the penal provisions of the law or to force further tests in the courts, pending the decision in this case.

FRENCH DESTROYER WRECKED IN COLLISION

BERLIN, Dec. 11.—German newspapers say that the French destroyer Yatanag, sunk by collision with a British transport, is the fifth French destroyer lost in this way during the war.

RECKLESS AUTO DRIVING MUST END, WILSON SAYS

Director Wilson of the Department of Public Safety, made clear his position regarding violators of the city's automobile regulations when he declared today that he had asked the Magistrates to co-operate with the Department of Public Safety in enforcing the regulations. "I am just as busy as any man in Philadelphia and my automobile can get me anywhere without endangering the lives of pedestrians. Automobile owners who are laboring under the impression that the ordinary pedestrians have no right to the use of the streets will find he is making a big mistake in the future. This reckless driving has got to be stopped."

FRENCH BRING DOWN FOUR TEUTON PLANES

PARIS, Dec. 11.—Four German aeroplanes were brought down Sunday south of the Somme. There was intermittent cannonading yesterday in this section, the official statement announced today.

29 CIVILIANS KILLED BY ALLIED PLANES, BERLIN SAYS

BERLIN, Dec. 11.—Ten men, twelve women and seven children, all civilians, in French and Belgian territory occupied by the Germans were killed by Allied airplane fire during November, the Press Bureau announced today. Forty men and thirty-two children were wounded. The number of French and Belgian civilians thus killed is now 2473 since September, 1915.

EGG PRICES RISE HERE AS THEY FALL IN NEW YORK

While New York egg prices are falling, Philadelphia eggs are going higher and higher. There were advances of two cents a dozen on wholesale storage eggs and one cent on fresh eggs today, and dealers expect another advance tomorrow. Scarcity of eggs and big demand are given as the cause for the advance. Cold storage eggs sold wholesale at thirty-three cents today, as against thirty-one cents on Saturday. Fresh eggs brought forty-two cents, compared with forty-one cents on Saturday. Butter has risen from thirty-seven cents on Saturday to thirty-eight and one-half cents today.

U. S. TO DECIDE U-BOAT STAND THIS WEEK

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The last of the evidence upon which the United States will base its future attitude toward Germany in the submarine issue is expected here by midweek. After that, it was indicated today, the State Department would start framing a note asking Germany for a sharp definition of what her submarine pledges are worth.

PAY INCREASE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The first definite and official step by Congress as a result of the high cost of living was taken today, when the Appropriations Committee recommended sliding increases of from five to ten per cent for all Government department employees, the increases to remain in effect at least one year. The increases were urged in the annual legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill carrying \$9,479,685.75.

BILL PROPOSES 12 1-2 PER CENT MUNITIONS TAX

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—Twelve and a half per cent tax on yearly profits on munition contracts is sought for the Government in a bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Curtis, of Kansas, today. The bill provides for excise tax on profits beginning January 1, the tax to be lifted one year after the end of the present European war.

NEW BANK FOR WEST PHILADELPHIA

Another bank has been organized in West Philadelphia. It was learned today that the organization of the Drovers and Merchants' Bank has been completed and the opening at 3016 Market street will take place shortly. The capital of the new bank will be \$100,000. The officers are Joseph J. Martin, of D. B. Martin & Co., president; Frank P. Clark and Charles W. Haldean, vice presidents; Ernest R. Patton, cashier.

FOUR FIREMEN KILLED IN \$175,000 TOLEDO BLAZE

TOLEDO, O., Dec. 11.—Four firemen were killed and property loss of \$175,000 was the result today of a fire which swept "wholesale row." The business blocks occupied by the Paddock Merchandise Company and the Wickmyer Harness store were destroyed.

JONES & LAUGHLIN MEN TO GET 10 PER CENT MORE

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 11.—Approximately 13,000 employees of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Company will receive a ten per cent wage increase December 15. Men working by the day and tonnage employees are affected.

NOVEMBER TAX COLLECTIONS SHOW A SLIGHT DECREASE

Tax collections during November, according to the statement of Receiver of Taxes W. Frelaud Kendrick, amounted to \$89,715.08, as compared with \$1,036,927 received during the corresponding month last year. The total receipts of the department during the first eleven months of the year aggregate \$22,516,757, including \$14,785,011 paid in city taxes and \$8,185,121 in school taxes. The collections during the same period in 1915 amounted to \$31,446,928, of which sum \$14,344,603 was on account of city taxes and \$7,410,567 school taxes.

BREAD RIOT IN DETROIT

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 11.—Because Richard Picoenti, proprietor of a restaurant, and his wife bought three loaves of bread in defiance of a neighborhood boycott they were attacked by an infuriated mob of 2000 men and women and were rescued by policemen with difficulty. Police arrived at the scene of the riot just after the mob had broken down the barred door and kicked in a plate-glass window of an electrical shop, where Picoenti and his wife had sought safety.

HUGE SWINDLE EXPOSED HERE; THREE ARRESTS

\$2,500,000 Fraud Alleged as One of Three Schemes

LEADERS IN PLAN TO BE SURRENDERED

Gas and Electric Company Said to Have Widows and Poor as Victims

MANY CITIES AFFECTED

Three Already Indicted in Alleged Typical "J. Rufus" Plan of Financing



CLAWSON BACHMAN Former president of the Bay State Mutual Life Insurance Company, said to be the "Wallingford" of the alleged \$2,500,000 International Gas swindle.

United States postal inspectors today unearthed three alleged swindles in Philadelphia, one of which is said to involve \$2,500,000, and to be one of the biggest and most flagrant of its kind ever detected in Pennsylvania.

In two minor alleged swindles three arrests have been made. Those arrested were:

- GEORGE PRETTYMAN LANGASTER, of 4911 Pulaski avenue; member of the Lancaster Realty Company, 400 Chestnut street.
ALBERT LANGASTER, of 2117 North Thirtieth street, his brother.
PERCY K. KINSECKER, commission merchant, of 107 Vine street.

United States deputy marshals are searching for Clarence Bachman, of 503 East Johnson street, Germantown, for whom a warrant has been issued in connection with the alleged \$2,500,000 swindle. A search was made of his home today, and it was learned that he was in New York. His counsel promised to surrender him.

The \$2,500,000 scheme, according to Federal officials, is similar in many respects to the far-famed International Lumber and Development Company swindle, and involves the operations of the International Gas and Electric Company, and underlying concerns, for a period of several years. The company went into the hands of a receiver in December, 1915.

In automobiles, and escorted by City Hall detectives, Postal Inspector Frank Whitely Smith started out to round up the alleged swindlers, who already have been indicted by the Federal Grand Jury. The round-up promises to be the most sensational spectacular ever undertaken by postal inspectors in this city.

It will take several days to get all the men into custody, it was said.

CALLED "J. RUFUS"

The first step made by the Federal officers was at the home of Clarence Bachman, at 503 East Johnson street, Germantown. Bachman, a former president of the Bay State Mutual Life Insurance Company, is said by inspectors to have been the "Rufus Wallingford" of the alleged \$2,500,000 International Gas swindle.

ARRESTS MADE After leaving the Bachman home the inspectors arrested George Prettyman Langaster, at 4911 Pulaski avenue, who, with his father, A. Edwood Langaster, and Albert Langaster, a brother, has been indicted for using the mails to defraud in an alleged real estate swindle said to involve \$100,000. The brother, Albert, also was arrested. The Langasters operate the Lancaster Realty Company, at 490 Chestnut street.

The Federal officers then arrested Percy K. Kinsecker, a wholesale commission merchant, at 107 Vine street, accused of operating a fraud scheme in not less than 100 States.

The International Gas and Electric scheme, according to postal inspectors, assumed gigantic proportions.

The investigations of the affairs of the company lasted more than a year. It was conducted by Postal Inspector Smith, assigned to the case by Chief Postal Inspector James T. Conroy.

Mr. Smith said that the alleged swindlers

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