

ALLIES STRONG IN MEN AND MUNITIONS

Ready to Break Through German Line Whenever Right Time Comes.

WEATHER IS SEVERE

With the Face of the Country in Porous and Mushy Condition, it is impossible to Effect Essential Quick Movements of Artillery Without Which Any Big Offensive is Foredoomed to Fail, and With Winter Weather Severe From End of December to January, There is Likely to Be Few Developments.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—(10 p. m.)—Dispatches from both east and west express the belief that the winter weather is likely to prove the most severe obstacle to war operations on the principal fronts during the next few weeks. The statement that from the most dreaded period of winter is from the end of December to the end of January was General French's reply a year ago to the demands for a great offensive. The same remark would probably apply equally this year.

Reuter's correspondent at western headquarters, after remarking that the British staff is confident that the allies are now so strong in men and munitions that they can break through the German lines whenever the right time comes, declares that the weather is the chief reason for postponing the big movement and adds, "such a movement requires careful planning and extreme caution. Rolling up attacks always involve the possibility of counter attacks, which may end in rolling up the aggressor. With the face of the country in a porous and mushy condition, it is impossible to effect the essential quick movements of artillery without which any big offensive is foredoomed to fail."

"The allied troops would probably have little trouble in occupying any part of the Germans' front trenches forthwith because the enemy holds these lightly. But then with the ranges registered to a nicety, such a step would be their suicide before the time is ripe."

A Russian correspondent writes: "The most severe part of winter has begun in the Russian theater. All the reports agree that the weather this year is more severe than usual. It is increasingly doubtful whether any serious events will occur until the end of January."

Despite the weather, the artillery duel in the Vosges mountains, in the western zone, continues, and may eventually prove to be one of the big operations of the war. The gains in either direction thus far have been small, but the French claim progress in their effort to establish themselves on the crest of the foothills, which here dominate the plain.

By all accounts Saloniki is now safe. Certainly the central powers show no haste to attack the allies' position. Seventy-five thousand Serbians have reorganized at Scutari and Eloasan, in Albania, and the Montenegrin army, which heretofore has been debarred geographically from taking any large part in the war, is now throwing itself energetically into the contest against the Austrians.

Reports that the Austrians are attacking Scutari are authoritatively denied. According to the latest advice, the Austrians were at Bjelopolje, where they were recently repulsed by the Montenegrins and cannot reach Scutari without crossing the Albanian Alps and the flooded River Drin.

No official announcement is yet available in London as to the disposition of the cabinet regarding compulsory conscription, but the political atmosphere has been considerably cleared up by the admission that the principle of compulsory conscription is accepted by a majority of the members of the cabinet. Public opinion has not yet crystallized, but there is widespread approval of Premier Asquith's general attitude and there is a feeling that the public is quite ready to be convinced.

The difficulties within the cabinet may be expected to diminish as the question shapes itself in practical form.

A joint meeting of the representatives of the labor party and the Federation of Trade Unions has been summoned for tomorrow and a detailed statement of the labor attitude is likely to follow.

TAKE OBSERVATIONS. PARIS, Dec. 29.—(11:10 p. m.)—Despite numerous difficulties, such as no landing grounds and a mountainous country, French aviators have succeeded, according to an official note issued here, in carrying on reconnaissance about 90 miles into the interior of the Bulgarian lines.

PREPARATIONS COMPLETED FOR THE MASONIC REUNION TOMORROW

Preparations have been completed for the Masonic reunion to be held at the Temple tomorrow evening, when State Librarian and Grass Range lodges will meet at the third degree.

HELENA TO BE FOLLOWED BY A HUNDRED MEMBERS EXPECTED TO ATTEND AND W. W. WHEATON, THE REFRIGERATING MASTER, EXTENDS A SPECIAL INVITATION TO VISITING MASONS TO BE PRESENT.

THAT PIPINICH MYSTERY AGAIN

GRAND JURY HAS THE MATTER UP AND WALTER PIPINICH IS HELD AS WITNESS.

SUITS IN THE DISTRICT COURT

The grand jury has again been investigating the death of the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pipinich, who was killed under peculiar circumstances an older brother of the deceased, the theory advanced first was that the child had been killed by a vicious cow, but when the testimony was given this seemed untenable. Some arrests were made and eventually suspicion attached to Walter Pipinich, whose intelligence was somewhat unnormal. Nothing came of the investigations, but it was continued thereafter under William Woods, who was then sheriff. Two years ago the grand jury took the matter up again and went into it thoroughly, but could not secure any important additional information and nothing was done. Joe Pipinich and his son Walter, as well as others, have been before the inquisitors during this session and yesterday Walter was placed in the county jail, being held as a witness. The jail register, which is the basis of this information, does not record any charge against the boy further than stated.

Court Terms.

Judge Roy Ayers yesterday fixed the court terms for 1916. They will begin as follows: January term, Jan. 1; May term, May 1; September term, Sept. 5; November term, November 9.

New Suits.

The First National Bank of Miles City has brought suit against Arah Long and Handel Bros. to recover \$2,396. Belden & DeKalb represent the plaintiff.

Cyrus Watson has brought an action against D. B. McCollum to recover \$75. C. J. Marshall represents Mr. Watson.

The case of Pete Peraica against William Bergin in which judgment was given for the plaintiff in Justice B. H. Foley's court for \$100, an appeal has been taken to the district court.

J. W. Bunn has brought suit against Oscar Peltzer to recover \$175. C. J. Marshall represents the plaintiff.

Estates Appraised.

In the matter of the estate of John Miller, deceased, the appraisers, William Nevin, Joseph D'Neil and C. A. Drinkard, have filed a report fixing the value of the property at \$2,400.

The estate of the late Florence A. Duffy is appraised at \$564.

Naturalization.

The next naturalization day will occur on Feb. 7, shortly before the beginning of the next jury term of court.

Serving Out His Fine.

Peter Laverdue appeared before Judge Brassey yesterday and admitted that he wrote a check on a bank when he knew that he had no funds, with which to meet payment of said check. However, he said that he expected to have the money there by the time the check reached the teller's window. In this he failed. Therefore his arrest and the fine of \$25 imposed by Judge Brassey. Being unable to pay the fine Peter is now serving it out in the county jail.

TRIES TO CONTEST CLAIM THAT HAS BEEN PATENTED

UNUSUAL CONTEST FILED YESTERDAY IN UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE.

Charles L. Flinders of Weede yesterday filed an unusual contest case in the local United States land office, when he made allegations against the homestead filing of Ella C. Pollard of Miles City, the land having been patented for over five years past. The contest was, of course, rejected, as the local office has no jurisdiction in contest cases after patent has been issued by the government. The allegation made by Mr. Flinders is that the final proof was fraudulent, and that claimant had failed to cultivate and reside on the land.

The proper and only course for the contestant to follow would be to report to the field department, and if that department reports favorably, it will be up to the department of justice to act. The contestant would have no preference right, at all, even if the filing would be cancelled and the patent revoked.

Dardanelles Abandoned by British For Saloniki.



Announcement has come from the British war office that 100,000 troops, believed to be all the British troops on the Gallipoli peninsula, have been withdrawn to another sphere of operation. That is interpreted to mean the troops have gone to Salonica. The statement said that the troops had been withdrawn from Suva Bay and Anzac. Previously, it was believed, there were troops at Seddul Bahr.

FORD PEACE SHIP CARRIED 4,000 POUNDS OF RUBBER CONSIGNED TO NOTED SWEDISH AGENT FOR GERMANY

LONDON, Dec. 29.—(7:40 p. m.)—A British official statement, issued tonight, says: "It is ascertained that 45 bags of rubber, all consigned to a well-known enemy forwarding agent in Sweden, were removed from the parcel mail on board the steamer Oscar II. The estimated weight of the rubber seized is about 4,000 pounds. The remainder of the mail, which consisted of 734 bags, was handed over to the postoffice for immediate transmission to its destination. The Oscar II, is the vessel which carried the Henry Ford peace party to Europe. On the voyage across she was taken into Kirkwall by the British authorities and her cargo examined."

PRINTERS' BALL A BIG SUCCESS

A function of unparalleled success and brilliancy was the Christmas ball given by Lewistown Typographical union No. 550 at Armory hall Monday evening. It was a noteworthy fact that the invitation extended by the printers of this city received a response of hearty fervor from citizens representative of every path of the city's social and community life, fully 500 being present as spectators and participants of the dance.

It must be affirmed by all who attended Monday evening, that Armory hall never presented a more handsome spectacle of beauty, and as a background for so momentous an occasion, studied effects of light and color were never more worthy. Red and green, the colors of the local, predominant in glowing and resplendent design, distinguished by the rich hues of the American flag. At one end of the hall the orchestra balcony was half hidden behind a canopy of scarlet ribbons, and directly opposite, glorified behind lights of many tints, and wreathed with Christmas holly, "Judith" gazed with an approving smile upon the scene before her.

Ropes of holly leaves and branches of green barked the walls, prominently aloft, where all could see beamed the yellow rays of a crescent moon, and just across, fittingly significant, the union label of Lewistown. Over the whole scene the lights glowed softly under flower shades of scarlet tissue. The approach to the ball was also transformed with evergreen and bunting which lightened the effect of festive splendor.

Members of the Lewistown Typographical union, the mayor and aldermen of the city, and Mrs. G. J. Wiedeman and Mrs. E. K. Cheadle, officers of the Associated Charities, acted as a reception committee, and at the door each guest was given a program and a book of handsome postcard pictures of the Union Printers home at Colorado Springs as a souvenir.

At 9:30 o'clock Mayor W. D. Symmes and Mrs. Harry Lay took their places and the line for the grand march was formed. Mr. Lay with Mrs. Symmes and the members of the city council with their ladies followed, then the other guests, and the elaborate figures of the grand march, directed by Mr. Joe Steiner, was an impressive spectacle. Following the grand march, dancing began in earnest, and it was a late hour when the dancers reluctantly accepted the strains of "Aloha Oe." Punch was served during the evening which was at once refreshing and delicious.

How It Happened.

The scheme of aiding the worthy poor of Lewistown by giving the people who bought tickets the worth of their money in a grand ball, was conceived by William Purnett, president of the Lewistown Typographical union. No. 550. "Billy" has a heart in him as big as the Moccasin mountains and a will-power that will brook no bondage. When the plan was proposed to his fellow workers of the local union they easily fell under the sway of his eloquence. For many days past every body in Lewistown who looked like an "iron man" has been imported to buy a ticket and the handsome sum turned over to the Associated Charities, to be used judiciously in relieving distress among the 50 odd families in this city, is a glowing testimonial of the hustling ability of the printers.

Every detail necessary in making the ball the grand social success it proved to be, was placed in competent hands and those who enjoyed the occasion will long remember "Billy" and his co-workers.

It is just as natural for the old-time printer to think of the poor as it is for a hungry man to think of something to eat. If he has been a good printer, he has traveled from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. "See America First" has been his slogan, and in doing it he has seen it more thoroughly than a millionaire could have done, because he saw most of it on foot or from the top of a boxcar.

He knows what it is to be hungry, ragged and footsore—the old-time printer does—and his heart bleeds for one who suffers for the necessities and comforts of life. The present generation of printers are of a different class. They are not possessed of that earnestness that carried the old-timer away from home and dear ones. The modern printer is a plutocrat or fast becoming one. He is strong for the fireside and the fat bank account.

AN EXPLANATION OF CABINET SITUATION

FAMOUS MONTANA PIONEER DIES OF HEART TROUBLE IN BOZEMAN

BOZEMAN, Mont., Dec. 29.—Joseph M. Lindley, civil war veteran and famous Montana pioneer, died this evening from a general breaking down in health and heart trouble. The deceased came to Montana in 1864 and was engaged in freighting. He also was engaged in the cattle business between 1871 and 1882. During the latter part of his life he had been active in real estate and insurance.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CHURCHES

The Christmas eve festivities carried out for the children at the churches Friday evening brought the youngsters out in force and they thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas trees and the various programs. At the Methodist the attendance was very large and the whole program was greatly enjoyed. The exercises by the primary class were interesting and the Christmas play by the Philathea class was fine. Donations were made to the Deaconess hospital, the Deaconess school, the Children's home and the Montana Wesleyan university, while ten families in Lewistown were given assistance.

St. James' Church. Christmas day—7:40 a. m. morning prayer; 8 a. m., corporate communion of the parish; 10:30 a. m., holy communion, with special music and address. Sunday, St. Stephen, the Martyr's day; 8 a. m., holy communion; 10 a. m., Sunday school (held in the parish house); 11 a. m., morning service and sermon; no evening service. George Hirst, rector.

Zion Lutheran church, Sixth avenue and Corcoran—Christmas service to day at 11 a. m.; Christmas tree and program by Sunday school children at 7:30 p. m. J. K. Lerohl, pastor.

German Lutheran church. German Christmas services will be held by the German Lutheran church at the old K. of P. hall, corner Fifth avenue and Main street, this Christmas morning at 11 o'clock. Also celebration of the Lord's Supper. Confessional services at 10:30 a. m. Every one is cordially invited to attend these services. Rev. Paul E. Meyer.

Christian Church. The white gift service at the Christian church Sunday evening was both impressive and beautiful and probably the most successful celebration of Christmas which that church has ever enjoyed. The platform in the church auditorium and the walls bounding it were draped entirely in white. Evergreen trees of varying heights fringed the platform and above them towered a pure white cross, under the silver lights of a star. At the foot of the cross two little girls were seated to receive the gifts as they were offered. The chandelier in the center of the church was bright with scores of small stars on silver threads.

Prayer—Rev. E. L. Kechley. Song—"Angels' Chorus"—The Choir. The Gifts of Service. Song—"The Silver Star"—The Choir. Story—"The Christ Child."

Rev. E. L. Kechley. Song—"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"—The School.

DEATH OF HALF BREED. A half breed Indian named Berger died last Tuesday night at his ranch 10 miles northeast of Grass Range. The body will be shipped to Lewistown to be prepared for burial by Undertaker George Creel.

HENRY PARRENT SAYS THAT IT WILL FALL FAR SHORT OF THE CROP OF 1915. Henry Parrent, a well known farmer of the Box Elder country who is in Lewistown, estimates that the total acreage of winter wheat in the ground at the present time in Fergus county is less than half what it was a year ago. He says that in his section many of the farmers have but 25 per cent of the acreage of a year ago.

MISS BERTHA STRAUCH IS DOMESTIC SCIENCE TEACHER. Notification was received here Tuesday from Miss Bertha Strauch of Champaign, Ill., that she would accept the position of teacher of domestic science at the Fergus county high school, and that she will be here for the opening of school, following the Christmas holidays. This will be on Monday, January 3.

LEAVES FOR MINNESOTA. H. F. Walters, clerk at the local land office, left Tuesday for Noyes, Minn., where he will enter the immigration department, as chief of the office at that point.

Asquith's Pledge to Married Men May Not Be Fully Carried Out. Statement Furnished by the London Press Association Says It is Undoubted That the Government Will Carry a Majority of the House of Commons With Them for Any Reasonable Scheme of Compulsion, and Anything Like Organized Obstruction is Unthinkable—Steady Stream of Men Needed to Fill Ranks.

IRELAND BE EXEMPT. The following explanation of the cabinet situation will appear in the newspapers of London tomorrow morning, furnished by the Press association: "It has been generally expected that Premier Asquith's pledge to married men would be carried out in letter and spirit, but the view is held in some quarters that a further chance for single men to enroll would not be inconsistent with the fulfillment of that pledge. "The premier himself rejected this interpretation of his words and informed the cabinet that resort to compulsion was called for in his opinion, not only to carry through an honorable obligation, but also to provide a steady flow of reinforcements for the various battle fronts. "On the question of compulsory service for single men, with relations to later groups of men engaged in reserved occupations, there is no difference in principle within the cabinet. Until the details of the procedure are definitely settled there is no expectation of personal changes in the administration. It is recognized, however, that to pass at the present stage from the well defined case of single men and to set up a general obligation to military service on the part of the adult population, would introduce difficulties. "In a matter which touches so many ingrained prejudices the government may be expected to move warily. The ministers must be prepared for some opposition to their proposals, however limited in form. "It is undoubted that the government will carry a majority of the house of commons with them for any reasonable scheme and anything like organized obstruction is unthinkable. For the smooth passage of the bill, it is possible the measure will not apply to Ireland. "The case of Ireland is exceptional, since registration there has been only carried out in a partial manner and there has been no attestation there under the Derby system. "The cabinet will do its utmost to meet all objections and secure a measure of general agreement, which the premier declares essential."

FAVORS COMPULSION. LONDON, Dec. 29.—(1:20 p. m.)—The evening newspapers today all concurred that the decision of the cabinet in favor of compulsory service and sea and air force, which they will be resignations of cabinet ministers or for anticipating serious opposition from the country. According to the Westminster Gazette parliamentary reporter, the number of single men not attested reaches a big total. Its estimate greatly exceeds any heretofore published and if correct, the comparative rapidity with which the cabinet decided upon the necessity of compulsory measures is easily explained. The cabinet is understood to have fully explored the various points arising out of the decision and to have made arrangements to meet the claims of munitions work, the export trade and the financial world on the labor market. David Lloyd George, whose urgent calls for workers in munitions factories had much to do with the speedy decision reached, will now take none but eligible men on the fighting line. If the trades unions, as is hoped, agree to his proposal for dilution of skilled workers on munitions with a proportion of the unskilled, he will be able to fill the new factories with women and ineligible men quite capable of doing, with little training, the work now done by skilled labor. No final decision regarding the method of carrying out the idea of compulsion apparently has been reached as yet, but the Daily Mail Gazette believes that the proposal which most commends itself is a bill providing that every unmarried man up to the age of 40 who has not already enrolled under the Derby group system shall do so within a fixed period. GREY WILL NOT QUIT. LONDON, Dec. 30.—(4:06 a. m.)—The usually well-informed parliamentary correspondent of the Daily News, the liberal organ says that Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary, will not resign and that he believes that both Walter Runciman, president of the board of trade, and Reginald McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer, also will remain in the government. The correspondent adds that the main body of the labor party will support the government.

AUSTRIA WILL NOT YIELD TO U. S.

GENEVA, Dec. 29.—(Via Paris, 11:20 p. m.)—The latest information received by the Swiss press from Vienna states that Vienna official circles are opposed to the acceptance of the second American Ancona note unless it is modified, and a rupture in diplomatic relations is believed to be imminent, notwithstanding the strong opposition of the liberal and Hungarian parties and diplomats who demand that an agreement shall be reached with Washington.

The reply to the first American note is declared, was drafted in Berlin. Strong pressure was brought to bear on Austria that both Count Tisza and Baron Burian, who favored a policy of conciliation, had their hands forced and therefore it is claimed that the question more directly concerns Berlin than Vienna. It is considered that there still is a possibility of an agreement within the next 24 hours, but if the situation comes to a rupture of diplomatic relations not only Vienna, but Berlin will be affected.

ZERO WEATHER HITS THIS CITY; THREE-INCH SNOWFALL

A cold snap hit Lewistown yesterday and during the storm of that day and the previous night three inches of snow fell in this city. This is according to the official report of Weather Observer Watson. The low mark yesterday was 2 below zero, this being registered at 4 p. m. For a time it became milder, but later in the evening it seemed to be slightly colder again. The night previous, when considerable of a wind was blowing, the mercury did not go to zero until 7 o'clock yesterday morning, when it just touched that point.

The storm is general all over Montana and the prediction is for continued cold today.

WINTER WHEAT CROP IN YEAR 1916 WILL BE MUCH SMALLER