



The Star-Independent

LXXXVI—No. 307 12 PAGES

HARRISBURG, PA., WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 26, 1917

Single Copy, 2 Cents HOME EDITION

ITALY RETAKES OLD POSITIONS; LOSSES HEAVY

Following Bitter Fighting Covering a Period of Forty-Eight Hours, Italian Troops Win Back Points of Vantage on Col Del Rosso; Berlin Claims Capture of 9,000 While Winning Temporary Advantage;

By Associated Press

On the northern Italian front the Austro-German tactics appear to be to strike alternately at vital points on either side of the Brenta. Checked at Monte Asolone last week the enemy had struck toward the Frenzella valley west of the river. After two days of bitter fighting the Italians have regained possession of lost positions on the Col Del Rosso west of the river and have attacked the Austro-German positions on Monte Peritica east of the river. Berlin claims the capture of 9,000 prisoners in the gaining of the Col. Del Rosso, which later was lost to the Italians.

Rome, Dec. 26.—Col Del Rosso and Monte Val Bella, on the Asago plateau, were recaptured by Italian forces in a counterattack yesterday, but it was found impossible to hold them, the War Office announced today.

Italian Army Headquarters in Northern Italy, Tuesday, Dec. 25.—A general commanding an Army corps on the Piave front took the correspondents along the line occupied by his corps today and pointed out the Austro-German nest on the west bank of the river which is the only foothold he has succeeded in maintaining.

The main purpose of the Italian commander was to carry a holiday greeting to his men in the first line trenches, but incidentally this visit to the extreme front gave an opportunity for the general to explain the lay of the land and why the enemy was finding himself able to hang on.

As the party moved forward it was noted that the defenses had been highly organized so that any sudden rush of the enemy would meet tremendous resistance.

Trotsky Protests Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, has protested to the Germans against the transfer of the front to the eastern front but also has ordered Russian factories to stop the manufacture of munitions. He did not indicate what other step against German violation of the armistice.

Peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk apparently are making little progress. The Germans have delayed their answer to the Bolshevik terms and it is reported the conference will be transferred to Stockholm shortly. In the meantime the majority party in the constituent assembly, the Social Revolutionists, has adjourned the assembly to meet January 2, despite Bolshevik disapproval.

German Savagery German savagery has been called officially to the attention of the American troops in France. An American sentry has been found with his throat cut and an official bulletin says "he must have been so killed after capture" by a force of Germans which surprised him. Information of enemy terrorism in driving women and children from their homes in the occupied sections of France and Belgium to make room for German troops, soldiers and war material has been given to the American troops.

Germans Break Agreement While their guns bombard the western front, the Germans are taking troops from the eastern front for use elsewhere despite the provision of the Russo-German armistice prohibiting such action. The artillery activity in France has been moderate over most of the front and more violent on the right bank of the Meuse, northeast of Verdun, the scene of the German attack nearly two years ago.

German Infantry has not been active and it is probable that Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is waiting for more reinforcements before making a move.

Wildwood Park Opened by City For Skaters

Wildwood Park Lake was opened today for skating by the Park Department and the red flag may be seen today if the temperature does not rise too much during the afternoon. Much of the snow on the ice has melted leaving a fairly smooth coating over about six inches of solid ice. The restroom has been opened and skates can be rented there. With fair weather to-night a large crowd is expected by the park officials. The Twelfth street pool is open for children and the pond at Paxtang along the park driveway can be used also.

Tuscarora Believed Lost With Crew Numbering 35

Newport, Pa., Dec. 26.—The American steamship Tuscarora, formerly a lake vessel and requisitioned by the United States Shipping Board for Atlantic service together with her engine, has been lost at sea somewhere north of Cape Breton Island, according to advices received in shipping circles to-day from Nova Scotia.

RIBLE CLASS REORGANIZES

COUNCIL NOT YET READY TO GIVE UP ASH COLLECTION

Morgenthaler Favors Municipal Work After Month's Letup

CONTRACT EXPIRES SOON Provision Can Be Made to Take Up Refuse About March

While some of the members of Council said to-day they were sure no private collector would submit a bid for the removal of ashes in the city after February 1, it was learned that the city officials have not decided definitely to abandon removal of refuse at the expense of the city.

Commissioner Morgenthaler declared to-day he is in favor of ash collection paid for by the city, and has not given up hope that some provision can be made to have this done. Other members of Council said to-day they would take no action on abandoning ash collections plans unless it was recommended by Commissioner Morgenthaler.

Mr. Morgenthaler said he had no intention of making such a recommendation and that the only thing to be done would be to eliminate the provision for ash collections from the budget if Council intended to drop this work.

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Local boards are called upon to examine questionnaires now being returned and report as rapidly as possible on the number of bricklayers of draft age available for service through local boards. They will take either by draft or by voluntary induction into the military service through local boards. They will be forwarded to the aviation section, signal corps, at Kelley field, San Antonio, Texas. The purpose for which they are to be used in France is not disclosed.

General Crowder's letter to the Governors indicates similar calls for skilled men in other trades are to be expected.

1,000 Skilled Laborers Wanted at Once For Service With Pershing

Washington, Dec. 26.—The new draft machinery was invoked for the first time when Provost Marshal General Crowder made public today instructions to all Governors calling for the mobilization of 1,000 bricklayers, urgently needed by General Pershing at once.

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Alleged Deserter Ill With Spinal Meningitis

Dennis Delosier, of Coupon, attached to the 11th Central Postal Directory, is reported to be a deserter from Camp Hancock, Augusta, Georgia, is in the Harrisburg Hospital, suffering with spinal meningitis, the disease which caused the death of Lieutenant Bartlett some weeks ago. Delosier was removed to the hospital from the county jail, where he was committed by the recruiting officers at the recruiting station, 325 Market street, for safe keeping. The authorities at the jail considered his condition to be such that he should not be kept at the jail.

Comrade Tsitserin, Bolshevik Ambassador Occupies London Cell

London, Dec. 11.—(By Post). Comrade George Tsitserin, who has been appointed by the Bolsheviks as Russian ambassador to London, is still in Erixton jail, in Southeast London on a charge of circulating seditious propaganda. Tsitserin is well known to London Socialists. Exiled from Russia many years ago, he lived in Belgium until the outbreak of the war when he came to London. He is described by his friends as a man of high intelligence, of good family, and intelligent means. He is a Minimalist or Menshevik rather than a Maximilist or Bolshevik, although the distinction is no longer very marked. Tsitserin's life in internment is similar to that of a prisoner awaiting trial. He is allowed to order his meals from outside, can have any books and papers which he wishes to read, and is permitted to do a certain amount of writing.

Another prominent Bolshevik, who is well known in London is Lieut. Schneura, one of the Lenin representatives in the armistice arrangements. He was in London less than a month before his appearance as a member of the peace parley committee and several of his relatives are still here.

"We're Behind You, My Boy, to the Absolute Limit"



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O'RYAN'S REPORT IS HEARD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Testimony Regarding Ordnance, Clothing and Supplies Not For Public

Washington, Dec. 26.—Aroused by reports of shortages of winter clothing in National Army camps, the Senate Military Affairs Committee today in resuming its investigation into Army conditions adopted a resolution requesting the Secretary of War to immediately ascertain conditions by wire, supply deficient troops and suspend departmental routine if necessary, by direct purchases from sources near the camps.

Conditions in the American overseas forces and National Army camps were described to the Senate Military Committee when it took up its inquiry into war operations. General officers of the National Army just back from inspection trips in France were called by the committee, when temporarily postponed further examination of Quartermaster General Sharpe.

Officers testifying included Major General John E. O'Ryan, of Camp Wadsworth, S. C., and Major General Edwin St. John Greble, of Camp Bowie, Texas.

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Steals Contribution Box Intended For Red Cross

The meanest man, according to Pennsylvania railroad attaches turned up yesterday. During the early morning hours he stole the Red Cross contribution box from a stand in the Union News Company. The box contained \$25 and other contributions. The man was seen by a local manager Wendell Fackler.

There was a big rush of travel between 3 and 5 o'clock yesterday morning. Bill Fackler the night manager, and his hands full taking care of the buyers. The box and money was there at 4 o'clock. One-half hour later it was missing.

Pennsylvania railroad police, station employes and a number of citizens joined in the search for the thief. The box had been on the newstand for several months. During the past few days contributions have been numerous and the box which had a glass front was almost full. It was the intention to turn over the cash to the local Red Cross representatives.

DR. C. T. GEORGE, PROMINENT AS DRUGGIST, DIES

Served Long as Secretary of State Pharmaceutical Examining Board

Washington, Dec. 26.—The death of Dr. Charles T. George, pioneer druggist in the West End of Harrisburg and for many years secretary of the State Pharmaceutical Examining Board, died at 3 o'clock this morning at his home, 1306 North Third street.

Nearly everybody in Harrisburg and thousands of men throughout Pennsylvania knew Dr. George, who was for a long period a dominating figure among the druggists of the State. He always stood for the highest ideals in the profession and was instrumental in eliminating many evils practiced by unscrupulous dealers. Thousands of young men took their pharmaceutical examinations under his supervision.

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Rotary Club to Give Xmas Dinner For Poor

The annual Christmas dinner to the poor children by the Rotary Club of Harrisburg will be given to-morrow afternoon at Chestnut Street Auditorium. Admission will be by invitation card only. The big time starts at 1 o'clock. The committee in charge has prepared an interesting program. Local Rotarians will assist in the distribution of Christmas cheer.

APPAISERS APPOINTED

The court has appointed C. W. Hardt, Warren T. Hein and John DeGray as appraisers of the property of the Halifax Water company which the borough officials want to buy.

LAUDER TELLS AMERICANS TO FIGHT TO END

No Truce With Prussianism, He Says; Sings Another New and Stirring War Song

"Turn your silver dollars into silver bullets, men, and shoot straight. Get solidly together, stand more closely shoulder to shoulder than ever you did as a people before and make yourselves shareholders in the bank of humanity. If dollars will give back a son to his mother again, don't withhold the dollars. Don't measure your dollars in the lives of men. The men at the front do his best without question. The talk in the trenches is not of how any man dodges his duty or get away from the fighting, but 'when will the next push come.' So must it be with every man in this room."

In this vein Harry A. Lauder, the world-famous Scotch singer, who has lost one only son in France, talked to the men of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce, who gave him a luncheon at the Board of Trade at noon to-day.

Lauder had worked and saved up a fortune of two millions of dollars that his son might have a place of prominence in the life of Scotland. A great estate had been bought for him and a bright future was in store—and then came the war. Lauder's son to the front as an officer, and one sad day his death along the fighting front in France. Lauder visited his grave and before the little cross that marks it on a shell-scarred hill, he vowed to devote the remainder of his life to service for his fellow man. Every penny he had went into the purchase of war securities and nearly all the interest from these goes into the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A. and other forms of war work. Then he started out to preach the gospel of war against the Hun, and he has done wonderful work in stirring Americans to a realization of what the war means.

Arthur D. Bacon, former president of the Rotary Club, presided at to-day's luncheon and recalled that it was for the Harrisburg Rotary Club two years ago that Lauder had written:

"Turn your silver dollars into silver bullets, men, and shoot straight. Get solidly together, stand more closely shoulder to shoulder than ever you did as a people before and make yourselves shareholders in the bank of humanity. If dollars will give back a son to his mother again, don't withhold the dollars. Don't measure your dollars in the lives of men. The men at the front do his best without question. The talk in the trenches is not of how any man dodges his duty or get away from the fighting, but 'when will the next push come.' So must it be with every man in this room."

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BOLSHEVIKI NOW FACING DISASTER; DISORDER GROWS

Lack of Authority, Objection to Work and Poor Food Are the Reasons Given

MORE DRUNKENNESS Fighting Is Last Thing Maximalists Are Willing to Do or Intend Doing

London, Dec. 26.—There have been occasional assertions in recent Petrograd dispatches that the influence and power of the Bolsheviks was waning, but never with such unanimity as in dispatches dated from the Russian capital Sunday and printed to-day. Nearly all make the point in one form or other that defection from the Workmen's and Soldiers' organization is drawing constantly. Among the causes alleged are general lack of authority the increase in drunkenness, the reluctance of the population to work and the scarcity of foodstuffs. The main desire of the soldiers is said to be for peace.

The correspondents cite instances of Bolshevik troops refusing to march, declining to attack the Ukrainians.

Even the celebration at the quarters of the American air squadron were carried out although a blinding snow swirlied into the hangar where a tree had been erected for the children of a nearby village. There Santa swooped down from clouds dripping white and with a pack of his back stepped from an airplane. His goggles, cap, red suit and sack were dusted heavily with snow.

Many Attend Farmers' Week at State College

State College, Pa., Dec. 26.—Hundreds from every county of Pennsylvania met today for the annual farmers' week at State College. The sessions continue four days. Since Farmers' Week became a fixture in the agricultural program of the college there has never been a keener interest in the improvement of farming. To match this spirit on the part of the soil tillers those directing the conference are presenting a program of great importance. During the week lectures and demonstrations will be given by 111 speakers, mostly men and women in the employ of the state agricultural institutions, or experts in some line of work connected with the farm.

Santa Claus in Airplane GREETED FRENCH KIDDIES

American Boys at Front Celebrate Christmas in Howling Snowstorm

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Stafanssen Party Safe at Fort Yukon

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—Viljalmar Stefanssen, the Arctic explorer, last heard from in a letter received in March, 1916, has arrived with his party at Fort Yukon, according to word received by the Naval Department.

COMP TROLLER MAY BE R. R. ADMINSTRATOR

Washington, Nov. 26.—John Skelton Williams, comptroller of the currency, was being discussed to-day in official circles as the most probable selection for federal railroad administrator, should President Wilson decide to appoint one.

PLOT TO POISON BANDAGES FRUSTRATED

Cleveland, Dec. 26.—A plot to poison Red Cross bandages and spread wholesale death among the soldiers of America and her allies has been exposed and frustrated here. Revelations of the conspiracy were made to-day when it became known that Department of Justice agents were hunting the perpetrators.

AMERICAN TROOPS GUARD OUTLETS

Marfa, Texas, Dec. 26.—American troops to-day were guarding outlets to Van Horne Canyon, where 100 Mexican bandits on Christmas morning crossed the American border, raided the post office and general store on the Britz ranch, 27 miles southeast of here.

NOTHING SPECIAL ON BRITISH FRONT

London, Dec. 26.—"There was nothing special to report" on the British front in France yesterday, says the official statement issued to-day by the war office.

MOTOR FLEET REACHES MARYLAND LINE

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—The fleet of thirty-six United States Army motortrucks which utilized the Lincoln highway through Pennsylvania for a test trip with supplies from the west, was expected to pass over the state border to-day. Word received in this city by Colonel Lewis E. Beiter of the Pennsylvania Committee of Public Safety indicated that the convoy would reach Carroll, Md., to-night.

SANTA CLAUS IN AIRPLANE GREETED FRENCH KIDDIES

American Boys at Front Celebrate Christmas in Howling Snowstorm

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