

Ottumwa Tri-Weekly Courier

IOWA—Unsettled probably snow; colder LOCAL TEMP.—6 p. m., 21; 8 a. m., 12; 12 m., 25; max., 29; min., 10.

VOLUME SIXTY-EIGHT

OTTUMWA, WAPELLO COUNTY, IOWA. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1915

NUMBER 60

RUSSIANS MAKE AN ASSAULT ON AUSTRIAN LINE

May Be Diversion Intended to Relieve Pressure on Allies in Balkans

WIN SUCCESS IN PERSIA IS REPORT

Effect Is Political But Is Held Valuable; Western Front Very Active

Berlin, Dec. 29.—The offensive movement undertaken by the French in the Vosges, at Hirzstein, is said by the German war office to have broken down last night. The report concedes that the French penetrated German positions on Hartman's Weilerkopf, but says they were expelled later.

London, Dec. 29.—The fierce fighting on the Galician and Bessarabian front of which mention is made in both Russian and Austrian official statements, seems to support the forecasts that Russia, instead of directly attacking Bulgaria, hopes to reduce the pressure on the entente allies in the Balkans and Asia Minor and impress Rumania and Greece by a diversion to the north, with the intent, if possible, of break through the Austrian lines.

Simultaneously comes news of the capture by the Russians of Kashan, one of the principal cities of Persia, and of an advance toward Isfahan. These points are two remote for their occupation directly to menace the Turks who are fighting the British under General Townshend on the Tigris, but undoubtedly the Russian advance will have an important political effect in Persia and possibly an influence on the projected movement of the central powers against Egypt.

Conflicting accounts come from Athens and Saloniki regarding the movements of the troops of the central powers on the Macedonian border, but there are persistent reports that the Greeks have given the Bulgarians permission to cross the border if they and their allies are still intent on following the entente troops to Saloniki.

The recent French official statements indicate that the allies are maintaining the offensive in the west, with the fighting fiercest in the Vosges.

SERBS STILL STRONG.

Paris, Dec. 29.—"According to reliable information, there are 75,000 Serbian troops at Scutari and Elbasan, Albania," says the Athens correspondent of the Havas agency. "They are excellent troops notwithstanding the difficulties encountered in their retreat. They hold strongly fortified positions against the advance of the Austro-Germans and Bulgarians and it is unlikely that they will be transferred to Saloniki."

ITALIANS MOVE NORTH.

Paris, Dec. 29.—"Italian troops which disembarked at Avlona, Albania, have reached the vicinity of the northern frontier of Epirus in some places, according to reports from travelers arriving from Santi Quaranta," says the Athens correspondent of the Havas agency. "Italian troops also have been seen near Tepeleni, southern Albania."

RUSSIANS REPULSED.

Berlin, Dec. 29.—The Czernowitz (Bukowina) correspondent of the Tagblatt sends the following: "The Russians have made eight attacks against the Austrians on the Bessarabian border since Christmas night. Despite a tremendous expenditure of ammunition and men the attacking forces have not broken through the lines. Every time the columns of the Russians reached the Austro-Hungarians they were repulsed. The Russians maintained a gunfire for twenty-five hours."

REGIMENT MUTINIES.

Paris, Dec. 29.—The Eleventh Bulgarian infantry regiment stationed at Goumdzina, Bulgaria, has mutinied, according to information reaching the Havas correspondent of the Petit Journal.

SEEKING TO SEND MILK TO BABIES

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—At the request of charitable organizations in the United States, Secretary Lansing is instructed Ambassadors Page and Bepko at London and Paris, respectively, to inquire whether the British and French governments will permit shipment of condensed milk to Germany. Austria for distribution to infants under the direction of the American Red Cross. Statements that thousands of babies in Germany and Austria want the milk have been laid before the state department.

GREEK STEAMER SENDS S. O. S. CALL TO AVERT DISASTER

VESSEL IS LABORING TOWARD PORT IN GREAT DANGER OF GOING TO BOTTOM.

New York, Dec. 29.—Summoned by a wireless call for help, the coast guard cutter Seneca is speeding to the aid of the Greek steamer Thessaloniki. With three hundred passengers aboard the steamer was in distress this morning about 250 miles east of New York and laboring toward this port at the rate of two miles an hour.

The vessel is bound from Piraeus, Greece, to New York. Last Wednesday when 700 miles from the American coast she sent out her first "S. O. S." call reporting that her boiler and engine rooms had been partly flooded in a heavy storm. The steamship Stimpalia hurried to her relief but soon received word that the Thessaloniki would not require aid.

Yesterday morning the Thessaloniki reported by wireless that she was 300 miles east of Sandy Hook and in no danger. Early today the Atlantic Transport Line Mongolia, lying at anchor off Sandy Hook, picked up a distress signal giving her position and adding that she was "making two miles an hour toward New York."

The Seneca, which left the harbor at 3:30 a. m. will require nearly twenty hours to reach the distressed steamer. Meanwhile many wireless stations after vainly trying to communicate with her, sent the news to other steamers in the trans-Atlantic lane on the chance of finding one which may have picked up a later message from the Thessaloniki.

PERU BARK LOST.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 29.—Word was awaited here today regarding the fate of a three masted vessel, believed to be the Peruvian bark Callao, which was reported last night as drifting ashore under bare poles off Long Beach on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Aid was summoned by the dominion wireless station at Pabena and two power lifeboats and the American coast guard cutter Snobish were sent to the position of the distressed ship.

The American schooner Sausalito, which was driven ashore on Waadah Island, Cape Flattery, Monday night, was breaking up today and will be a total loss. Her crew was saved.

FORD PARTY HAS DINNER FOR HOSTS

Stockholm, Dec. 28.—The members of the Ford peace expedition tonight gave a banquet in the ballroom of a local hotel in honor of their Swedish hosts. Many prominent men and women of Stockholm were present. Mayor Carl Lindhagen, one of the speakers, said: "You have come like the Vikings of old across the sea. You are Vikings in a spiritual sense. I agree with the Americans that it is better to try something than nothing."

Gaston Plantiff thanked the mayor in the name of Mr. Ford for the reception given the mission. Other speakers were H. C. Evans of Des Moines, Iowa, and Judge Ben Lindsay of Denver. Senator Helen R. Robinson of Denver presided.

BRITAIN TO TURN TO CONSCRIPTION

EARL OF DERBY'S PLAN FAILS TO GET RECRUITS NECESSARY FOR THE WAR.

London, Dec. 29.—It is stated on excellent authority that the cabinet has virtually decided upon a modified form of conscription bill to be introduced in the house of commons next week, giving the government the necessary power, should it be found needful, to bring in single men and preserve Premier Asquith's pledge to married men.

Yesterday's cabinet meeting, although it failed to secure an agreement of all the ministers upon the vexed question of the voluntary system versus conscription, was of a very critical and decisive character, and virtually reached the decision that the application of force may become necessary before all eligible single men are effectually brought to the colors.

Therefore, it was resolved that at the earliest opportunity a bill should be introduced in parliament in order that the government might have the necessary power, should it be found that no other course was effective to this end.

Premier Asquith is expected to make a statement on the whole question in the house of commons on Wednesday or Thursday of next week and announce the speedy introduction of a bill of a permissive character, making service in the army obligatory on unmarried men who have failed to enlist under the Derby scheme.

WAR JUSTIFIED SAYS ROOSEVELT

Former President Writes Paper Which Is Read at National Meet

MIGHT OF RIGHT IS CALLED NECESSARY

National Existence of This Country Due to Ability to Resist Force

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—A paper by Theodore Roosevelt on "Special Values and National Existence," furnished a theme for an animated discussion today before the American Sociological society in annual session here. It was read by Prof. Edward A. Ross of the University of Wisconsin, president of the society.

"Infinitely the most important fact to remember in connection with the war and militarism in relation to moral and social values," wrote Mr. Roosevelt, "is that if an unscrupulous, warlike and militaristic nation is not held in check by the warlike ability of neighboring militaristic and well behaved nations, then the latter will be spared the necessity of dealing with 'moral and social values' because it won't be allowed to deal with anything. It seems to me positively comic to fall to appreciate, with the example of Belgium before our eyes, that the real question which modern peace loving nations have to face is not how the militaristic or warlike spirit within their own borders will affect these values but how allures on their part to resist the militarism of an unscrupulous neighbor will affect them."

Cites Persia's Fate.

Mr. Roosevelt referred to medieval Persia and Russia and to modern China, Korea and Armenia to show what happened to nations which applied practically the theories of pacifists.

"In the thirteenth century," said his paper, "Persia had become a highly civilized nation with the cultivated class of literary men and philosophers, with universities and great mercantile interests. These literary men and merchants took toward the realities of war much the same attitude that is taken in our own country by gentlemen of the stamp of Messrs. David Starr Jordan and Henry Ford. Unfortunately for these predecessors of the modern pacifists, they were in striking distance of Genghis Khan and his Mongols, and, as of course, invariably happens in such a case, when the onrush came the pacifists' theories were worth just about what a tissue paper barrier would amount to against a tidal wave. Russia at the time was slowly struggling upward toward civilization. But she had not developed military efficiency; she had not developed efficiency in war. The Mongols overwhelmed her as fire overhelms stubble. The chief difficulties against which Russia has had to struggle in modern times are due ultimately to the one all essential fact that in the early part of the thirteenth century she had not developed the warlike strength to enable her to hold her own against a militaristic neighbor."

Motives Are Good.

"There are well meaning people, utterly incapable of learning any lesson taught by history, utterly incapable of understanding aright what has gone on before their very eyes during the past year or two, who nevertheless wish to turn this country into an occidental China—the kind of China which every intelligent Chinaman of the present day is seeking to abolish. There are plenty of politicians, by no means as well meaning, who find it to their profit to pander to the desire of most men to live softly and easily and avoid risks and effort. Timid and lazy men, absorbed in ease and luxury, and all soft and slothful people naturally hail with delight anybody who will give them high sounding names behind which to cloak their unwillingness to run risks or to toil and endure. Emotional philanthropists to whom thinking is a distasteful form of mental exercise enthusiastically champion this attitude."

(Continued on Page 5.)

CARRANZA OUSTS FOES

De Facto Head of the Mexican Government Removing Office Holders Not Loyal to Him.

Laredo, Texas, Dec. 29.—Reports reaching here from Mexico City today say that First Chief Carranza has decreed that office holders who have failed to support the Carranza cause shall be removed from public office. Advice is that the decree is being applied leniently. The decree says that offices thus vacated shall be filled by loyal supporters of the constitutional cause.

U. S. MARINE IS BEING INCREASED AT RAPID RATE

SHIPBUILDERS REPORT PLANTS ARE WORKING TO CAPACITY AT PRESENT.

New York, Dec. 29.—Shipbuilding plants in the United States are working to full capacity but can increase their output from fifteen to sixty per cent within a year, according to information obtained by the New York chamber of commerce through a canvass of the leading shipyards of the country. The replies show that the tonnage under construction or order at present is double that of any year in the last ten. According to one prominent shipbuilder, the amount of ocean going merchant tonnage now being constructed in the United States for American registry has increased ten fold since July 1, 1914.

In a summary of the replies from shipbuilders, the chamber of commerce says that one leading New England plant which has a construction capacity of \$10,000,000 a year, has work on hand for fifteen months, of which one half is for merchant tonnage and the other half government work. Another New England plant with a capacity of \$1,500,000 has twelve months' work on its books.

In the Delaware and Chesapeake sections, fully 100 vessels of various kinds, including a larger proportion of ocean going craft than usual, are being constructed. On the Delaware river eighty-two vessels are being built in an aggregate of 383,000 tons valued at \$58,000,000.

MAN SHOTS AND KILLS HIS WIFE

THOMAS MARTIN SAYS WORRY OVER WOMAN LEAVING WITH ANOTHER IS CAUSE.

Oskaloosa, Dec. 29.—T. J. Martin, aged 25, of Marshalltown, shot and killed his wife, Myrtle Bescoe, at the home of J. C. Bescoe, near here, today. The couple had separated and the wife had applied for a divorce. Two small children survive.

Eddyville, Dec. 29. (Special to The Courier)—Thomas Martin of this city shot and killed his wife, Myrtle Bescoe Martin, this morning at the home of her father, Joe Bescoe, two and one-half miles north of here.

Martin made no attempt to get away and gave himself up to the sheriff at Oskaloosa, who came for him immediately. He gives as his reason for committing the terrible act, his wife's infatuation for another man. She is said to have left home two weeks ago with this man and her husband's worrying over the affair is believed by many people to have induced him to resort to the crime.

FLAMES DESTROY BIG SHOE FACTORY

Chicago, Dec. 29.—Fire destroyed a six story building at Wabash avenue and Randolph streets early today, causing a loss of \$250,000. The building was occupied by F. E. Foster and Co., shoe dealers, and other firms.

TWO OF INDICTED MEN SURRENDER

New York, Dec. 29.—Of the eight men indicted yesterday charged with conspiring with agents of the German government to foment strikes in munition factories, two had surrendered to the federal authorities before noon and a third was in town. For the four others warrants were issued. These will be forwarded to Washington for immediate execution unless assurances are given that they will come voluntarily into court as received this afternoon.

The two who surrendered were David Lamar, alleged paymaster for Capt. Franz von Rintelen, and Jacob Taylor of East Orange, N. J., president of Labor's National Peace council, the medium through which the government alleges, Von Rintelen sought to direct his activities. Both entered pleas of not guilty and were released in \$5,000 bail.

Taylor denied ever knowing Lamar, and of Von Rintelen, he said, he had heard only through the newspapers. The third defendant who signified his intention voluntarily to give himself up and who came to New York from Columbus, Ohio, is Frank S. Monett, former attorney general of Ohio.

CLEVER FORGER IS SUCCESSFUL

Four Worthless Checks Are Cashed in Local Stores for Various Amounts

USES NAMES OF WELL KNOWN JOBBERS

Appends Signatures of Big Wholesale Houses to Spurious Paper

Four Ottumwa merchants were victims of a forger who in the past few days worked cleverly in each store and made his escape with about \$85. The checks used by the man were drawn on four leading wholesale firms and that the forger was acquainted with the men employed in the different places was evident when he answered questions put to him by the store owners. A good description of the man has been turned into the police department but the authorities have been unable to locate him.

Four Stores Victimized.

S. C. Cullen & Co., Creswell & Trost, N. F. Friedman and J. E. Scase & Co., were the stores that cashed the worthless checks. An attempt was made to cash a check at the W. J. Donelan & Co. store but failed. The checks were drawn on Harper & McIntire Co., Haw Hardware Co., American Mining Tool Co., and J. W. Egerly & Co., and each check was countersigned with the name of a member of the firms.

Have Description.

The man who forged the checks, was dressed in a pair of blue bib overalls, a blue flannel shirt, plaid cap and is said by some of those who saw him to have been wearing a sweater. He would call at a store make a purchase and tender the check in payment. At one store he purchased a pair of silk hose and asked that they be packed in a Christmas box.

The man called at the W. J. Donelan store and told the clerk he wished to purchase some socks if a check would be taken. The clerk inquired of W. J. Benkert, in regard to cashing the check but Mr. Benkert refused to cash the check unless the man was identified. He called the American Mining Tool Co. and asked if a plain bank check had been issued and when he learned that the company put out checks only on their own blanks he called Robert J. Shanahan, secretary of the Retail Merchants' association. The matter first came to the police when Mr. Scase called at the station Tuesday afternoon.

Knew Men in Firms.

When the man entered the Creswell and Trost store and submitted the check, which was drawn on Harper & McIntire Co., Mr. Creswell asked him as to who worked in the office at that place and where their desks were situated. The man told of how the desks of each man were arranged and so concisely that Mr. Creswell cashed the check.

When the check was refused by Mr. Benkert at Donelan's the man went to the Scase store where he cashed a check for \$18.60 drawn on the American Mining Tool Co., in favor of R. E. Morgan, and countersigned, F. H. S. Friedman store was drawn on Harper & McIntire Co., and was made payable to L. E. Woods and was for \$16.50. The check cashed at the Creswell & Trost store was drawn on Egerly & Co., made payable to R. E. Moore for \$12.50 and was countersigned W. H. Egerly.

Think There Are Two Men.

The man that cashed the check at Cullen's is supposed to have been a different man than the one that operated at the other stores. He is described by Mr. Cullen as being tall while at the other stores the man is said to have been short. The check cashed here was drawn on the Haw Hardware Co., bore the initials C. H. and called for \$16.50.

The police department believes that there are two men working together as the endorsement is much different from the handwriting on the face of the check. This theory is substantiated by the fact the man who cashed the check at Cullen's is said to have been tall.

BIG FIRE AT DAVENPORT

Wholesale House and All Its Contents Destroyed; Keokuk Has Costly Blaze Also.

Davenport, Dec. 29.—Fire in the Morton L. Marks Co., wholesale grocery house, which started at 7:30 o'clock this morning, resulted in a loss estimated at \$175,000. The outer walls of the building remain, but the interior and stock is almost a total loss.

The fire started near the elevator motor, the exact cause being unknown. The fire was under control at 10 o'clock.

Keokuk, Dec. 29.—Fire of unknown origin late last night totally destroyed the Gate City Seed company's office and elevator here. The loss is estimated at \$25,000. Firemen were handicapped by zero weather. Two explosions preceded the blaze.

STORM DAMAGES EASTERN STATES AND GULF COAST

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH WIRES IN ALL DIRECTIONS ARE REPORTED DOWN.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—Sleet and snow crippled wire communication today throughout the east. The storm moving northward over Louisiana and gained in force during the night and today was central over the Ohio valley.

Rain, sleet and snow were falling throughout most of the eastern part of the country, and as the storm moves northeast these conditions will prevail tonight and Thursday in the region of the great lakes, northern New York and northern New England. Rains have been general throughout the gulf, south Atlantic and middle Atlantic states, being heavy in the east gulf states, Tennessee, the Carolinas and Georgia.

Storm warnings were ordered up by the weather bureau along the Atlantic coast from Key West, Fla., to Eastport, Me. No damage to shipping was reported.

GULF COAST HIT HARD.

Mobile, Ala., Dec. 29.—Extensive damage was reported early today along the gulf coast and adjacent territory as the result of a storm which swept over this section last night. Telephone and telegraph wires are reported prostrated in every direction. This morning Birmingham, Montgomery and Pensacola still were cut off from communication with the rest of the world. Mobile's only means of communication was by way of New Orleans.

A heavy downpour of rain accompanied the storm. The velocity of the wind at Birmingham is unofficially reported at eight miles an hour at one time. The local weather bureau reports a wind velocity of forty-eight miles an hour along the coast just before midnight.

A coal barge anchored in Mobile bay, with thirty to forty negro laborers aboard, went adrift during the height of the storm and is reported ashore near Point Clear. No lives are reported lost but the barge is in a dangerous situation. Tugs left this morning to rescue those on board.

SLEET CRIPPLES WIRES.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 29.—General rains throughout the Mississippi valley last night, which, in some sections, turned into sleet, resulted in a serious crippling of telephone and telegraph communication today. Trains from the west were late and reported running on slow orders.

In Memphis the thermometer dropped to 23 degrees, the ice causing serious delay in street traffic.

Another storm, accompanied by rising temperatures, is on the way from the southwest, according to the local weather forecaster.

BIG SNOW AT CLEVELAND.

Cleveland, Dec. 29.—Cleveland was in the grasp of a blizzard today, worse than any which has afflicted the city in two years and which may completely isolate the city and tie up all street car traffic before night. The heavy snow was being borne by a thirty-five mile gale which was expected to become more violent. Street cars were stalled everywhere and wires down all over the city at noon.

BOOZER IN MEXICO FACES EXECUTION

CARRANZA GOVERNORS IN THE WESTERN PROVINCES TAKING DRASTIC MEASURES.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—All of western Mexico, from Tepec to the border, probably will soon be on the "water wagon," according to a statement today by Thomas D. Boyd, Jr., manager of the United Sugar company, who has arrived from the company's holdings near San Blas, Mexico.

"Sonora is absolutely dry," said Boyd, "dry in the full sense of the word. There is no bootlegging and anybody caught taking a drink runs a chance of being stood up against a wall."

All the Carranza governors, said Boyd, are thinking of making their states dry. The project is looked upon with favor by Carranza," he added.

RECORD CHRISTMAS AT CHICAGO OFFICE

Chicago, Dec. 29.—The Chicago post-office this season handed the greatest amount of Christmas mail in its history, according to a report made today by Postmaster D. A. Campbell.

During the ten days preceding Christmas the Chicago office handled 4,890 tons of outgoing parcel post, an increase of 24.3 per cent over the same period a year ago. The packages would have filled 700 freight cars, the report states.

WILEY TELLS IMPRESSIONS OF WAR REGION

Ottumwa Jockey Just Back From Balkans Gives His Views on Conditions

SAYS AMERICANS ARE CORDIALLY HATED

Germans Bitter Toward This Country; Dardanelles Campaign Blunder

How things look abroad to an Ottumwan, who has been in the Balkans since last March, is told by William Wiley, well known jockey, who has been riding horses in Europe for some years past, urging on track favorites for English and French owners and during the last two seasons for the prime minister, M. Marghiloman, of Rumania.

Mr. Wiley was asked to write some of his impressions received in passing through the war scourged countries and has complied. He states that he is neither pro-Ally nor pro-German and that his opinions are in direct opposition to those of many Courier readers, but holds that his views are based on what he has seen and what has been told him traveling about Europe and aboard ship where army, diplomatic and Red Cross representatives were met in numbers.

Has German Guns.

"The much mooted question of whether Rumania will enter the war or not, will be settled, in my opinion," said he, "sometime in the spring. Rumania will remain neutral as far as possible, but Germany will force her hand."

"The entire Rumanian army is equipped with guns of German pattern and by an oversight of the Rumanian, or foresight of the German government, no ammunition has been supplied Rumanian soldiers for their German made guns."

"The price of all articles in Rumania now is three times the normal value. Tea and coffee bring \$2 per pound and a pound of sugar like our currency, is no longer in circulation."

Lauds Serbian Soldiers.

"Serbia as a nation or the monarch but when the history of several men written, the defense of a captured grade, will furnish a captured brilliant pages. For the first time caused bians withstood the city of the German. Austria's forces of three hundred laid down their arms under a perfect fire. The city was a martyrdom broken promises."

Germans

"I was in Germany this month, excellent, abundant in normal will be, starving, ammunition themselves confident in force led to."

"Gerr through rail road she has marines now of two g and in side o assure which I do. The of arms a adequately to their of time to do."

"Greece ed now other w lieve th that quar campaign military bit the most p Co."

"One of C observes ab wounded a France, w none. Th ade thel here."

"Custom r you are called solute identity leaving the w carrying gold e the frontier in paper cu counted as m exchanging. It gold would be sold world b "Any foreign belligerent cot to the police hea."

(Continued)