

CARRANZISTAS DEFEAT VILLA FORCES IN BIG EBANO FIGHT

General Gonzales is Said to Be Advancing on San Luis Potosi.

Villa Chieftains Desert and Will Fight in Blanco's Army.

Zapata's Base of Supplies in Southern Mexico is Now Cut Off.

LAREDO, Texas, Dec. 31.—Villa forces have been routed at Ebano by General Gonzales, according to advices received at constitutionalist headquarters here, and Chilpancingo, in the Mexican west coast section, has been captured by the Carranza general, Julian Blanco. Gonzales is said to be advancing on San Luis Potosi. The entire garrison of Monterey, all Carranza troops, left there yesterday for Hipolito, midway to Torreón, where they were expected to join other Carranza forces in a big battle against Villa troops, according to news brought here today by families of the civil and military officers of Monterey. These refugees said there was great anxiety in Monterey for fear of an attack by Villa troops. There were signs that all the inhabitants who could travel would leave Monterey for the border. Foodstuffs were extremely high in price, no corn was obtainable at all and much suffering was reported.

Villa Men Wiped Out. A BRIETA, Mex., Dec. 31.—The constitutionalist war office here reported from Vera Cruz today to the effect that General Julian Blanco has annihilated the conventionalist troops in the vicinity of Chilpancingo, in the state of Guerrero.

The dispatch said further that Blanco's troops have taken possession of the town, captured the fortifications and a number of artillery pieces and considerable ammunition. As a result of the victory, the report says a number of General Villa's chieftains have joined Blanco's army and hereafter will fight under the constitutionalist banner. Another report says that Zapata's base of supplies in southern Mexico has been cut off.

Prohibition Is A Nation Issue

EX-GOVERNOR OF KANSAS PREDICTS DRY COUNTRY BY 1925.

By Associated Press. TOPEKA, Kansas, Dec. 31.—If the liquor traffic in a state and not a national issue why does the government impose a heavy tax on it and grant a license to people to engage in the business? That was the question John P. St. John, the first prohibition governor of Kansas, put to the National convention of the Inter-collegiate Prohibition Association here today. "If it is purely a state matter why does a Government official carry the key to the distillery?" continued the former governor. "The contention that the liquor question is purely a state issue has no foundation in history, justice or common sense. A prohibitory amendment will be adopted by Congress not later than 1917 and three-fourths of the states will have ratified not later than 1920. And five years thereafter the liquor poll-tax and the liquor press will be ready to swear that they were always ready for prohibition."

BRITISH OCCUPY A GERMAN ISLAND

By Associated Press. MELBOURNE, Australia, via London, Dec. 31.—British forces have occupied Bougainville, the largest of the Solomon Islands. It was announced here today that the British flag had been hoisted over the island on December 9.

NOTICE OWLS! There will be an installation of officers and social session on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1914. Come out and have a good time. W. H. RANDOLPH, Sec.

The Cankering Fumes Of A Hellish Conspiracy Exude From Terre Haute It's Counterpart Can Be Found In Fairmont

The wholesale arrest of those alleged to be guilty of conspiracy to corrupt the election at Terre Haute, Indiana, shows what a vigorous investigation of such wrongs will bring forth. In this dragnet officials and the higher-ups were caught, and even the mayor of the city was arrested along with the rest of the alleged offenders and required to give a bond of \$10,000 before he was released from custody.

In some places, and Fairmont is one of them, the violations of the election laws are so common that they are condoned with only a passing thought and oftentimes such offenses are treated as mere jokes upon the candidate or party who suffers as a result of the "joke."

In Terre Haute these things were common matter of fact political exigencies and so treated by those who were permitted from year to year to benefit by such corrupt practices, but when an outraged public opinion demanded an investigation and the disclosures were so glaring, the law took on a more serious attitude towards such practices. This is shown by the very large bonds required to secure release from prison.

The president of the Terre Haute Board of Public Works was another high official who came in and surrendered to the officials, knowing that the coils of the law were about to tighten about him. In all, 94 arrests have been made. This is one of the biggest efforts at cleaning up crookedness in elections that has occurred since Judge Blair did the same thing, on a bigger scale, in Adams county, Ohio, a few years ago, when hundreds of the so-called best citizens of the county were brought into court and confessed to accepting bribes.

The people generally have little idea how many men accept bribes and think lightly of it, as the practice is so common in this county. Few people would believe that election officials who are sworn not to do so, will pass the word outside of the election rooms to paymasters on the outside, telling how the floaters voted. It is hard to believe these charges, but they are so. It is difficult to believe that grand juries are packed to prevent indictments for such offenses, but it only takes five men of the sixteen on a grand jury to prevent any indictment.

The trouble with the West Virginia election laws is that they are intended to be prohibitive in their provisions but they do not prohibit. The offenses are laid down and the penalties are severe enough, and in some instances it may be stated they are too severe to be enforced, but while these provisions are there they do not safeguard the elections. The thing the law should do is to prevent election frauds and bribery, and not seek merely to punish for such offenses. Punishing a voter for selling his vote or punishing the man who buys the vote does not restore the office to the man who is cheated out of it. It is like locking the stable door after the horse is stolen.

The election laws of this state can be made to protect the ballot and they can be made so they will be enforced.

The election laws of West Virginia provide a penalty

(Continued on Page Nine.)

Canada Murder Case, Settled

CORONER'S JURY ABSOLVES SOLDIERS WHO KILLED AMERICAN HUNTER.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 31.—A coroner's jury at Fort Erie, Ont., empaneled to investigate the death of Walter Smith, the Buffalo man shot by Canadian soldiers Monday, returned its verdict yesterday after hearing the testimony of the soldiers, Thomas Delaney, a provincial police officer, and several eye witnesses. The verdict found Smith met his death while evading arrest for unlawfully shooting ducks out of season in Canadian waters, by a volley delivered accidentally from the rifles of three militiamen who were called upon to assist him. Officer Delaney, who occupied the stand for more than an hour, took the responsibility for the whole affair.

GOV. COX ASKED TO OUST TOLEDO MAYOR

COLUMBUS, Dec. 31.—Removal of Earl Keller, as mayor of Toledo was asked yesterday by City Solicitor Thurston and George Kipp of Toledo, who filed charges with Governor Cox upon which the request is based.

Kapp was deposed yesterday from the office of safety director of Toledo by Mayor Keller following an investigation of the affairs of that city by the state civil service commission. That the mayor has permitted gambling to flourish was one of the charges made against Keller. Governor Cox took the matter under advisement.

6 BLUE JACKETS MAKE POSSIBLE, CAPTURE OF CITY

German Soldiers With Big Guns Take Refuge in Houses.

Marines Pole Boat With Gun on Board Through the German Fire.

As Fast as One Dropped Another Took the Place Until Six Were Killed.

By Associated Press. PARIS, Dec. 31.—How the heroic self sacrifices of six French blue jackets made possible the capture of St. George's a town less than two miles of Neuport is described by a correspondent in Flanders. He says: "The attackers had driven the Germans from the advanced trenches but they had taken refuge in the houses in the village. The Germans soon placed their assault in position. The Situation of a force of Belgians isolated on a strip of land surrounded by water became critical and the artillery alone was unable to effect any thing against the enemy. The British batteries at Ramcappelle tried, but their shells burst over the trenches. Six blue jackets hoisted a three-inch gun on a punt and poled along the canal behind the village running the gauntlet of German rifles. As one was hit, another took the pole and continued until he in turn fell stricken. The sixth man was mortally wounded, as with a last push he sent the punt to the bank where the French advance guard was waiting. The gun was quickly landed and a few shots at 300 yards brought the houses on top of the Germans, who retreated into the arms of a battalion of Belgians who completed the rout of the enemy. Meanwhile the French column took possession of the heap of ruins which was formerly St. George's, and before night the engineers had established a bridge head, enabling the allies artillery to debauch on the right bank of Yser."

Official War News

By Associated Press. PARIS, Dec. 31.—The official statement given out by the French war office this afternoon is as follows: "From the sea as far as the Alsne yesterday passed with relative calm. There were artillery exchanges on some points of the front. In Champagne to the west of the Alger farm, which is north of Sillery in the neighborhood of Rheims, the enemy during the night blew up two of our trenches and then delivered against these positions an attack which our men repulsed. To the north of Mesnil-Les-Hurlus we occupied certain positions on the enemy's second line of defense. In this same region at a point to the north of the farm of Beausjour we also occupied some trenches.

The enemy delivered a counter attack, but he was driven back. We then resumed the offensive and we were successful in gaining some more ground. In this same zone and further to the east, certain German forces which were advancing to deliver a counter attack against us were brought under fire of our artillery and dispersed. In the Argonne in the vicinity of Fontaine-Madame, we exploded a mine and occupied the resultant excavations. This gave us a slight advance. Between the Meuse and the Moselle in the region of the forest of Monte Mart about 150 yards of German trenches fell into our hands. In Upper Alsace French troops have entered the village of Steinbach and have occupied with house to house fighting one-half of the community.

By Associated Press. BERLIN, Dec. 31.—The official statement given out in Berlin this afternoon reads as follows:

"In the western arena of the war, yesterday passed comparatively quiet on the coast. The enemy directed their fire on the west end and destroyed part of certain houses there, but without causing any military damage. An entire French company was annihilated when we blew up their lines near Alger farm. South of Rheims strong French attacks north of Camp Chalons, were everywhere repulsed. In the western Argonne region, we gained considerable ground, capturing several trenches situated behind one another and taking 250 prisoners. French attempts to attack in the region of Flirey north of Toul, failed. In upper Alsace, in the region to the west of Sennheim, all the French attacks broke down under

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By Associated Press. WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—New York City and New York county were quarantined today by the department of agriculture because of the foot and mouth disease in cattle.

NEWSBOYS OF FAIRMONT TO FEAST TOMORROW AS WEST VIRGINIAN GUEST'S

King's Daughters of the M. P. Temple Will Serve the Repast at 2 O'clock in the Y. M. C. A. Building.

Free Tickets Can be Procured at the Fairmont News Company and the Marion News Agency.

The gastronomical propensities of every newsboy in the city will be completely satiated at the big turkey dinner to be served Friday, New Year's day, by the King's Daughters of the People's Temple. The repast is given by the West Virginian. At 2 o'clock the news vendors will gather around the tables in the Y. M. C. A. dining room and partake of a sumptuous repast.

For some time it has been known that the newsboys were to be the guests of the West Virginian. This event has been discussed by the juvenile fraternity until every one of them are familiar with what is to be theirs. Each boy who sells papers in the city is to enjoy the hospitality of the occasion and it is hoped that every lad in the business will avail himself of the opportunity to be present and enjoy himself to the fullest extent of his capabilities. The newsboys will apply to the Fairmont News Company and to the Marion News Agency for their tickets. The boys will meet at the West Virginian building tomorrow at 1:30 o'clock and from there go to the Y. M. C. A. Among the features of the occasion will be an address by Mayor Anthony Bowen, head of the city board of affairs, who will have something good in the way of encouraging each boy to realize the hope of his aspirations. The Y. M. C. A. will be open tomorrow and the lads will have an opportunity to enjoy a good time in the swimming pool and at other amusements to be afforded in the building. It is the intention to give the lads the time of their lives. That he will have it is assured for every detail in the preparation has been worked out. There is nothing wanting now except the boys who are expected to furnish the appetites necessary for the full enjoyment of the affair. The boys can be relied upon to be present. They will be the guests of the Y. M. C. A. at the basketball game to be played tomorrow night on the Y. M. C. A. gym floor between the local association's quintet and the Grafton association's team.

NEW YEARS ISSUE.

Several inquiries have come to the West Virginian office today in regard to the issue on tomorrow, New Year's Day. The paper will be published the same as usual and advertisers can prepare their regular Friday advertisements.

A Record Apple Crop This Year

WEST VIRGINIA RANKS THIRD IN NUMBER OF BUSHELS PRODUCED.

By Associated Press. WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—This year's apple crop was the largest ever produced in the United States. Estimates announced today by the Department of Agriculture, placed the 1914 yield at 679,000,000 bushels or 114,000,000 more than produced last year. Among the states leading in production this year were Pennsylvania 23,100,000; Ohio 13,300,000; and West Virginia 12,400,000.

Use Biplane to Carry Supplies

AUSTRIANS IN BESEIGED CITY HAVE RUN SHORT OF PROVISIONS.

By Associated Press. PETROGRAD, via London, Dec. 31.—The Russians who are besieging the Galician fortress of Przemyel yesterday brought down an Austrian biplane, flying from the Carpathians was attempting to reach the city. The plane in the biplane usually occupied by a military observer was filled with boxes and bags of canned foods.

Przemyel, which is one of the most important strongholds of Galicia, has been under siege by the Russians for several weeks, and it has been reported that the Austrian defenders of that city are suffering from lack of food. Reports from German sources, however, stated that there were in Przemyel food supplies sufficient for a year.

SUNDAY'S CHORISTER SETTLES DAMAGE SUIT

By Associated Press. PITTSBURGH, Dec. 31.—Homer A. Rodeheaver, the evangelistic singer, announced here today that he had settled for a money consideration the \$50,000 breach of promise suit brought against him by Miss Georgia Jay, a Chicago stenographer. Rodeheaver did not give the amount paid in settlement of the claim, but it was reported to be \$10,000.

Miss Jay secured a verdict for \$20,000 last summer, but the court set aside this verdict as excessive.

NEW YORK VISITED BY FOOT-MOUTH DISEASE

By Associated Press. WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—New York City and New York county were quarantined today by the department of agriculture because of the foot and mouth disease in cattle.

BALKAN STATE AND ITALY ARE TO JOIN IN WAR LONDON SAYS

Active Participation of at Least Three Nations Will Be a Reality.

No General Assault Will be Made on German Line at Present.

Russians Are Still Masters in Eastern Theatre of the War.

By Associated Press. BULLETIN. COPENHAGEN, (via London), Dec. 31.—A private dispatch received here from Berlin says that over 30 French and British warships are at present engaged in bombarding Tola, the Austrian naval base on the Adriatic and also the seaport of Rouigno, about 15 miles away.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—There are indications in London that the entire continental political situation which involves Greece, Italy, Roumania and Portugal is developing day by day. Even the participation in the war of at least some of these states soon will become a reality. This is the view of certain of the British commentators on the situation. Among the factors contributing to this situation is Italy's occupation of Avlona and the reported racial unrest in Austro-Hungary.

Where the Roumanian subjects of Emperor Francis Joseph are said to be on the point of rebellion as well as Germany's continued aggression in Angola the Portuguese possession in Western Africa. The German air raid on the channel ports of Dunkirk in France gives basis for belief that visits of this kind will be more frequent from now on.

It would appear that the British raid on Tuxhaen aroused in the Germans a spirit of retaliation and England judging from the expression appearing in newspapers is just as anxious to deliver, blow for blow in this respect.

ADVANCE POSTPONED.

There are increasing indications in the opinion of British observers of events on the continent that a serious allied offensive movement against the whole German line in the western arena will be postponed until such a time as larger contingents of Lord Kitchener's new army takes the field. The losses of the allies sustained to the present time in the tentative thrust forward here and there have been heavy in proportion to the gains and it is understood that the various leaders united in the opinion that the sacrifices entailed by a general advance at this time would be too great. The turn of events in the eastern theater of hostilities where Russia appears to be more than holding her own necessitates, nevertheless a continued hard pressure against the German line in the west to prevent them from moving any more of their troops to the eastern fields.

In the west, the town of La Bassel still held by the Germans is proving to be one of the hardest problems the allied forces have to solve. The invaders have thrown up exceptionally strong earth works around La Bassel and they have two army corps quartered in the city. To take this strong hold by a rush assault would mean loss of life, but its taking is essential to any concerted move forward in order to afford protection to the communications of the allies. All the news reaching London from the eastern field tends to confirm the root of Austrian forces which now appear to be endeavoring to make their way laboriously back over the Carpathian mountains.

Infant Dead. An infant child of Tony Caruso died this morning at the home of its parents, aged about one month.

SOME RACES At the Empire Rink Friday Night, January 1. Winner Will Challenge State Champion. "BE THERE"