

BICYCLE TROOPS ARE MOST DARING

Their Work in Present War Has Been of Most Remarkable Nature.

Dunkirk, France, Dec. 25.—That troops mounted on bicycles may be used at times for purposes of the charge, with fully as good results as cavalry, is said to be proven by the fighting at Arras.

The Germans attacked the French defending Arras, and compelled them to abandon one trench after another, and finally the town itself. A desperate struggle was kept up, however, at the main bridge out of the town. The German regiments surged to the attack with fierce shouts, and it looked as if the French were to be completely routed, when unexpected reinforcements came up in the form of a company of cyclist chassateurs.

The cyclists used their rifles and fixed their bayonets. Riding at a top speed, with their bayonets in front of them like lances, they swept through a cloud of dust straight into the crowded masses of the enemy at the bridge head. There was an indescribable melee of men and machines, but the cyclists, some mounted and some dismounted, used their bayonets with such good effect that in five minutes the Germans were in retreat. By this time the French infantry had reformed and swept up at double-quick to reinforce the cyclists and make the recapture of the town secure.

ORDER OF MERIT IS EXTENDED FRENCH

London, Dec. 25.—Membership in the Order of Merit, which King George conferred on Sir John French during his recent trip to France, is the highest distinction of its kind which the king can give. Membership in the order is limited to twenty-four, but has in fact never exceeded fifteen. The order was founded in 1902 for the reward of men who "have rendered exceptionally meritorious service towards the advancement of art, literature and science."

Lord Roberts was one of the first to receive the order, which was conferred on him in August, 1902. Since then only eleven names have been added to the membership. The list is now as follows: Viscount Kitchener, Lord Rayleigh, Viscount Morley, Admiral Sir E. Seymour, Admiral Lord Fisher, earl of Cromer, Viscount Bryce, Prof. Henry Jackson, Sir William Crookes, Thomas Hardy, Sir George Trevelyan, Sir Edward Elgar, Admiral Sir Arthur Wilson, Sir Joseph Thomson, Field Marshal Sir John French.

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HOW MONARCHS OBSERVED XMAS

King Albert Spends Christmas in England—Kaiser Visits Troops at Front

London, Dec. 25.—With the king and queen and other members of the royal family King Albert spent his usual Christmas celebration. England joined in endeavoring to keep up the old Christmas spirit.

There was little apparent change in London's Christmas of yesterday and that of a year ago. Tons of gifts have been sent to the soldiers at the front, and though thousands of homes in England are saddened by the loss of fathers or brothers killed in action, the country in general gave itself over to the usual celebration. In the hotels were to be seen many officers in khaki home on leave for the holidays. Great quantities of gifts were distributed to the various hospitals where wounded are being cared for.

Belgian King in England.

Thousands of Belgian refugees received gifts from the English people, and a Christmas dinner was provided for every man, woman and child from the stricken country.

The king of the Belgians spent his Christmas in England. King Albert arrived at Folkestone in motor and motored to the estate of Earl Curzon, whose guest he was. The queen and the three royal children were already there. The children had been the guests of Lord Curzon since September.

Kaiser Spends Day at Front.

Of other heads of the warring nations, Kaiser Wilhelm spent the day with his troops at the front. President Poincare of France remained in Paris. Emperor Francis Joseph was in Vienna. The king of Serbia was able to hold a real Christmas celebration in Nish as a result of the recent overwhelming defeat administered to the Austrian army, which practically cleared his domain of the enemy. Czar Nicholas spent the day with his family.

LAMA'S FAMOUS TREASURES BURN

London, Dec. 25.—A dispatch received here from Urga, Mongolia, relates that the interior of the palace of the kutuk, or defiled lama, of the Mongols, with all its priceless treasures, has been actively destroyed by fire. The loss is said to be enormous. The wealth of the kutuk, derived from the contributions of enthusiastic devotees, is described as very great. It is about Urga he owns 150,000 slaves.

RED CROSS HAS EXTENDED WORK

London, Dec. 25.—The British Red Cross has extended its activity to the fighting of typhoid fever in the Indian field or advance base hospitals. For the present, the privilege is restricted to one relative for each patient, in the event of the death of the patient's case must be properly certified by the army medical corps.

SHIPMENT MUST BE SHOWN

Interstate Transfer Necessary for Oklahoma Conviction, Says Judge.

Muskogee, Okla., Dec. 25.—Liquor has been seized in Oklahoma under the federal laws designed to make the Indian country "dry" can be found only in cases where it is shown the liquor has been brought into the state from a noted wine merchant in a routing of Judge Ralph E. Campbell of the United States district court today in sustaining a demurrer to a liquor indictment. He held that proof of the actual sale of liquor was not enough to obtain a conviction for introducing.

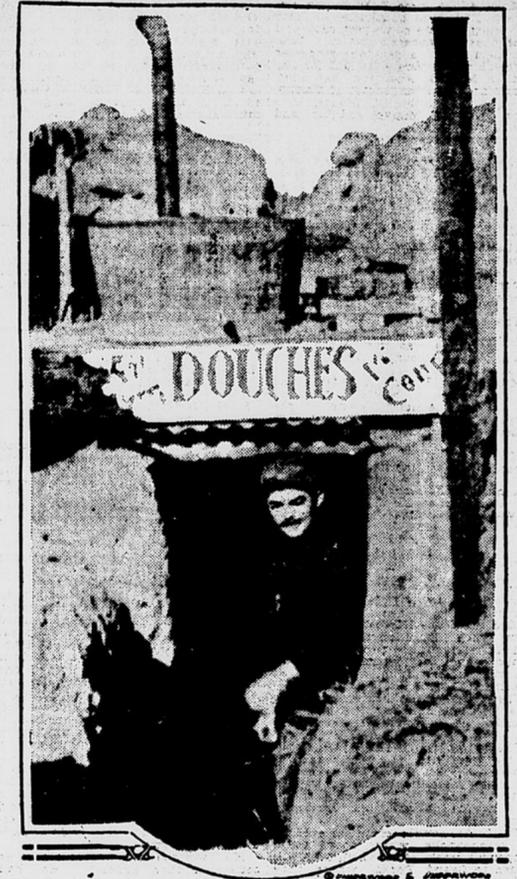
ITALIAN ELECTROCUTED

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 25.—Steano Ruggieri, 18 years old, was electrocuted at the state prison here for the murder of Pasquale Salabaruto, in Somerset county. Ruggieri fired a shotgun intending to kill another man whom he said he had been engaged to kill.

KEPENSSE 54 CENTS A GALLON.

Keopense, Dec. 25.—The price of keopense in Keopense has dropped to 54 cents a gallon, within four-tenths of a cent of the record low price made in April, 1911. The low price is attributed to competition between the Standard Oil company and the Pierce Oil corporation.

HERE'S BATHROOM IN FRENCH TRENCHES



To keep an army of bodily clean men is one of the herculean tasks with which all the warring forces must combat. The photo shows a bathroom in the trenches north of Solesmes, only 100 yards away from the German lines, where the men can enjoy their accustomed ablutions.

AERIAL RIGHTS ARE BASIS OF PROBLEM

Switzerland Protests Aviators Have Violated its Neutrality.

London, Dec. 25.—Now that Switzerland has raised the point that, in flying over her territory, British aviators who dropped bombs on the Zepplin sheds at Friedrichshafen violated Swiss neutrality, British lawyers have asked the question as to whether the recognition of air sovereignty logically involves the prohibition of wireless communication by nations at war.

In other words, if the passage of an airplane through the air of a neutral country is a violation of neutrality, how about the question as to whether the air is a message sent through the air? The question is a nice one, as it may seem, raises a nice point in international law—one that may yet have to be thrashed out at some future conference.

Great Britain expressed regret that her aviators crossed Swiss territory, but she emphasized at the same time that she did not concede sovereignty of the air to any one. On this point lawyers disagree. English courts have held in the past that there can be no trespass where free air is concerned. In the United States, on the other hand, the city of Cleveland, Ohio, contested in the courts and lost in a case where it erected a bridge, part of which projected in the air, over the property of a taxpayer. For this privilege the city was forced to pay ten thousand dollars.

British legal opinion thus far voiced seems to be that the air is private property only in so far as it is effectively occupied. That is to say, effective occupation consists at present of dominating the atmosphere to the limit of modern rifle range—seven thousand feet. "I can not see," said a lawyer, "that a country would be guilty of a breach of neutrality if it actually occupies the air to a height beyond the range of control. I told that the air space above the globe is free to the use of the aircraft of all nations, and is only subject to such rights as are required by the subject powers for their respective protection against attack, espionage, infection, infringement of fiscal rights and danger to the life and property of their subjects."

NAVAL BASE BY RUSSIANS PLANNED

London, Dec. 25.—Berlin reports say that Russia is planning to establish a naval base on the island of Man, the Gulf of Finland. The island is in parts but the island parts remain free from ice.

While the states bordering the Baltic have objected to the construction of fortifications on the island, it is understood that a number of Russian warships, including some of her largest vessels, have arrived there, and that provisions and ammunition have been stored in great quantity.

The island archipelago consists of eighty inhabited islands and islets at the mouth of the Gulf of Bothnia. They were taken over from Sweden by Russia in 1809. They are populated by about 25,000 persons, mostly Swedes.

AUSTRIA TO WITHHOLD PAY

New York, Dec. 25.—Austria is necessary will pay no money for the present at least, to alien enemies who hold 4-1-3 per cent notes due January 1. This announcement was made today by Dr. Constantin Dumbril, Austrian-Hungarian ambassador. Other holders of such notes must accompany the notes by affidavit denying no alien enemy has any interest in the securities. These notes, it was said, will be redeemed.

INDIAN APPROPRIATIONS

Washington, Dec. 25.—The following are the appropriations requested for the North Dakota Indian schools:

- \$5,000 for Devils Lake School.
- \$1,000 for Fort Berthold, \$11,000 for Turtle Mountain, \$10,000 for Bismarck, \$75,000 for Fort Totten and \$32,200 for Wahpeton.

TO KEEP CHILDREN

Columbus, S. C., Dec. 25.—The state supreme court reaffirmed its order awarding to Mrs. Lucy Susan Tillman custody of her children, Sarah Starke and Dottie Pickens Tillman.

LYNCHING IN MISSISSIPPI

Rutledge, Miss., Dec. 25.—News has been brought here of the lynching of Charles Williams, a negro, on a plantation near here. Williams, it was charged, attacked the plantation manager and a few hours later was seized by a mob.

INDIANS FOUND TO BE FIGHTERS

German Writes That Colored Men are Fiends in the Battle Line.

Amsterdam, Dec. 25.—The Frankfurter Zeitung publishes the following letter from a German officer, commenting on the prowess of Britain's Indian troops:

"Today for the first time we had to fight against the Indians, and the devil knows those brown rascals are not to be underrated. At first we took them for a bunch of niggers. Today we learned to look at them in a different light. For three days we were shelled continuously; the British thought we were pounded into a jelly, and they sent us a volley of bullets in the shape of a visit from their brown allies."

Satan only knows what the English had planned for the fellows. Those who stormed our lines were either drunk or possessed with an evil spirit. With fearful shouting, in comparison with which our hurrahs were like the whining of a baby, thousands of these brown forms rushed upon us as suddenly as if they were shot out of a fog.

We opened a destructive fire at a hundred yards. It mowed down hundreds, but in spite of that the others advanced, springing forward like cats and surrounding us with unexampled agility. In no time they were in our trenches, and truly these brown enemies were not to be despised. With our bayonets, swords and daggers we fought each other, and we had bitter hard work until our reinforcements arrived and we drove them out of the trenches."

UNITED STATES CRUISER THREATENED BOMBARDMENT

(Continued from Page 1.)

to civil war. Partisans of Kemal Bey last month forced the government to haul down the Turkish flag and hoist the Albanian colors. The Albanian commander-in-chief of the Turkish forces in Albania, then sent five hundred soldiers to Avolonia, disarmed the inhabitants and restored the Turkish flag.

Italian naval forces occupied Avolonia on October 26. The expedition was in the nature of a relief and sanitary organization purposed to aid the large population which had taken refuge in the city to escape persecution of the insurgents. Pains were taken in the event of any outbreak of violence merely for the purpose of seeing that the decision of the London conference, creating autonomous Albania, was carried out.

Austria in War to Finish

Washington, Dec. 25.—The Austro-Hungarian ambassador, Dr. Dumbril, today stated that the published reports that Austria-Hungary is tired of war, and had made unofficial peace overtures to France, through Vienna bankers upon the basis of cession of Galicia to Russia and Bosnia to Serbia.

The Russian ambassador emphatically denied the published reports of overtures of peace between Russia and Germany under way.

Early Peace Not Expected.

Vienna, Dec. 25.—(Mail to New York)—Early peace is not looked for by the Austro-Hungarian government. While no official statement to this effect has been made, the general opinion now in hand and those contemplated indicate that a cessation of hostilities in the near future is most unlikely.

Military preparations will continue throughout the dual empire, as observed by the Associated Press. Along many principal lines in eastern and northern Austria, the military field works are being laid out on a large scale, and the two principal cities of the empire, Vienna and Budapest, are being prepared for defense in a like manner. The normal garrison of Vienna, there are no less than nine lines of defense and the field works of Budapest are even more extensive.

Additional establishing of field works along the railroads is noted. The Austro-Hungarian military field being enlarged and supplies being stored in such a manner as to be used, either for local purposes or easily sent to the front by rail and various bases supplying one another.

Cholera Camp.

The establishment of a large cholera camp at Zoolna is further proof that the Austro-Hungarian government does not count upon an early termination of the war.

Will Refuse Recognition

Washington, Dec. 25.—Germany has notified some of the neutral countries having consuls in the Belgian territory now under German military authority, that they will not be recognized further, though provisional recognition will be granted those whose countries are not at war.

So far the state department has not been notified, although several south American countries are informed.

Dignitaries of the committee will consider the matter and report to a full commission.

German Slay 2,000 Captured

Berlin, Dec. 25.—The official press bureau announces:

"On the lower course of the Nida river (southern Russian Poland), two thousand Russian soldiers were captured. Constantinople claims an English cruiser endeavored to enter the Gulf of Akabah (eastern horn of the Red Sea), but was forced to withdraw."

"The Estampa," a newspaper at Turin, Italy, reports a great defeat for the French in Morocco. The French lost thirty officers and twelve hundred men killed.

"Copenhagen reports Russia has ceded the Sakhalin island to Japan in exchange for heavy guns. Sakhalin lies off the east coast of Asia."

Quiet in Flanders

Amsterdam, Dec. 25.—An official communication by the German army headquarters, dated today, says:

"In Flanders yesterday things were generally quiet. To the east of Saint Hubert, a further portion of the British front line was captured. One hundred and seventy-two Frenchmen. In attempting to recapture this position, the enemy suffered severe losses. German attacks near Souain and Perthes, as well as minor attacks northwest of Verdun and West Apremont, were repulsed. In the eastern theater of war the situation is unchanged."

Bank Sells Gold Bullion

London, Dec. 25.—The city was somewhat surprised today to find the Bank of England announcing the sale of 412,000 pounds (\$6,660,000) of foreign coin, and 402,000 pounds (2,010,000) of gold bars, this being the first transaction of its kind since the first of August.

RED TROUSERS ARE THING OF PAST

Bluish Grey Replaces Long Famous French Pantaloon.

London, Dec. 25.—Christmas did not bring rest to the fighting Eastern armies. It found the Russians still fighting desperately in the snows of Poland against the fierce attacks of the German and Austrian armies; Franz Josef still in the grip of the invading army; the French taking spasmodic thrusts against the long German lines of trenches in northern and northeastern France; and the British and Belgians engaged in an almost hand-to-hand warfare against the German trenches in Belgium.

In Flanders yesterday, things were generally quiet, save for a frontal outburst. A French report speaks of intermittent artillery firing there. The French claim several successes along the center and eastern lines; the Germans declare they were only repulsed in the second British trenches in Belgium. Both sides assert they repulsed attacks at various points, which indicates a tussling of process under way all along the lines.

Use Hand Grenades.

So close are the trenches of the allies and the Germans at many points that almost the only weapons used are hand grenades, since it is impossible for men to expose themselves to a small degree, even as much as necessary for the use of rifles.

There have been informal truces between the British and Germans for the burial of dead between the lines. According to the British eye witnesses, for many weeks along the front, the dead have lain as they fell. Gruesome tales of bodies held erect by barbed wires and scouts crawling over them at night to the German lines. The Germans made another attempt to drop bombs on British posts. Like the attempt against Dover, it was unsuccessful, according to an official statement.

NEWSPAPERS ARE HAVING TROUBLE

Real Difficulties Confront Paris Publications During the War.

Paris, Dec. 25.—As the war in Europe progresses, the difficulties that beset newspaper publishers in France, particularly in Paris, have greatly increased. With the outbreak of the war, many newspapermen went to the front, and their places had to be filled. Then provision had to be made for paper, in event the city should be besieged. The various journals reduced their circulation to the fewest number possible, and in their desire to economize, cut their advertising from six to eight sheets, and in some cases as low as two pages. Advertising dwindled down to nothing, and the proceeds from subscriptions and news were all that remained. Sacrifices were made on every hand, and curtailment practiced whenever possible.

From the editor-in-chief to office boy, salary reductions from 20 to 50 or even 60 per cent were made, and these were accepted without a murmur. The entire system, of correspondence from the front, interrupted by the call to arms, and consequently incoming news service was most unsatisfactory.

But soon these unfavorable conditions were overcome, and in their place arose the task of competing with a stringent censorship. Today the censorship in France is as rigid as that in England. In the beginning military alone, the censorship has now become administrative as well.

A double censorship exists, one in Paris and the other in Bordeaux. The newspapers complain that the censorship concerns itself with everything, including many things that are none of its business, and also allege that it is arbitrary and capricious. A certain news story might receive the ratification of the censorship in Paris, while Bordeaux would condemn the same story and vice versa. Under these conditions the Parisian newspaper editor has been a loss to know what he can do or what he can expect.

Papers have to go to press an hour and a half earlier than usual, in order to send three copies of each sheet to the censor's office. They have to wait until each sheet is examined and permission telephoned to use it, or not to use certain indicated portions. Only every sheet has thus passed, can the paper go to press. If the regulations of the censorship are ignored, all copies are confiscated and publication suspended, a very severe punishment. Protest against these conditions is constantly being made, and it is known in Paris that Great Britain has found it expedient to intervene in this matter.

The French newspapers admit that the movement of troops obviously should not be published for patriotic reasons, but they find it most difficult to understand why the glorious deeds of their armies and the men composing them should not be recorded for the perusal of not only the French public, but for the people of non-belligerent countries as well.

MINING EXPERTS EXAMINE GALACIA

Petrograd, Dec. 25.—Russian mining experts who have been sent to Galicia to investigate the possibilities of immediate development of the mineral resources of the occupied territory, have sent back enthusiastic reports to the government here. The oil districts now in Russian hands, it is estimated, can be made to provide for the entire southwestern part of Russia, and production on a large scale can be started early in the spring.

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