

NATAL, BRITISH MAN-OF-WAR, IS SENT TO GRAVE

Big Battleship Lost by Internal Explosion in Harbor Yesterday.

REPORTS SAY 400 SURVIVED

Vessel Built 11 Years Ago—Biggest Loss for Many Months.

London, Dec. 31.—The British armored cruiser Natal was sunk after an explosion, according to an official announcement made here.

The Natal was sunk yesterday while in a harbor, as a result of an internal explosion. There are about 400 survivors.

The loss is generally attributed to foul play. In support of this theory, attention is called to similar disasters which overtook the British battleship Bulwark, which was blown up off Sheerness in November of last year, with the loss of 700 or more men, and the British steamship Princess Irene, blown up in Sheerness harbor last May with the loss of between 300 and 400 lives.

The Natal's sinking is the most severe loss which the navy has sustained in several months. No British naval vessels have been sunk since last May, when the Triumph and Majestic were torpedoed at the Dardanelles.

The Natal, although a powerful man-of-war, was built only 11 years ago and her displacement was only about one-half of the largest British sea fighters.

The Natal's normal complement was 704 men. Her displacement was 16,660 tons. She was 480 feet long and 78 feet beam.

Her largest guns were 9.2 inch. Of these she carried three forward and three aft. She was armed also with four 7.5 inch guns, 24 three-pounders and three torpedo tubes.

The Natal was brought from Portsmouth the body of Whitelaw Reid, American ambassador at London, after his death in 1912, remaining in New York for two weeks.

ENGAGEMENTS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

Battles Proceeding South of River of Pripet Say Reports.

Petrograd (via London, Dec. 31.—The German and Russian official bulletins regarding the operations south of the Pripet river lately declare that the battles are proceeding. The importance of the engagements seems to be considered by the Russian military critics as great.

The general staff commentaries lay stress on the difference between these struggles and the last notable collisions between the Russians and Teutons before the period of calm. The battles of Czartorysk, Novo Alexinie and elsewhere between the Pripet river and the Carpathian mountains were sporadic and designed only to correct positions on different parts of the line before the cessation of strategic movements on account of the approach of winter.

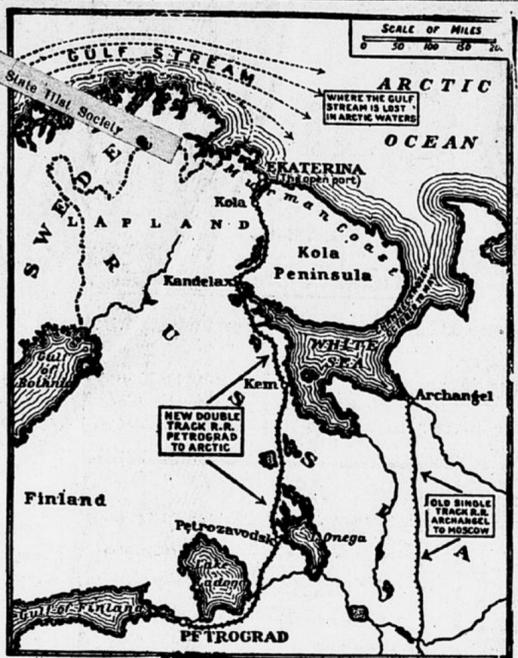
It is agreed now that a struggle is proceeding on the entire southwest line, and that apparently it is equally ardent everywhere. It is intimated that both sides are aiming at the accomplishment of exceedingly important tasks. The Russians and Teutons are equally alert, each side here and there taking the initiative.

The expectation here is that the outcome of the gigantic but still obscure struggle will be a transformation of the military positions in the Russian theater of war. While it is pointed out that Germany has not lost interest in the northern half of this theater, it is intimated that her activity there is designed mainly to inspire the belief that she has not removed her troops from there. It is unanimously agreed among the military observers that the aspect of the eastern front will be changed within three or four days.

INCREASED RATES NOT JUSTIFIED

Increases Proposed are from Half Cent to Two Cents Per Hundred Pounds.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Proposed freight rate increases on grain and grain products from Indiana, Illinois and other middle western states, from certain points in Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri and Kentucky to the Atlantic ports for export, were found not justified by the Interstate commerce commission.



Double track railway from Petrograd to Ekaterina Harbor.

Petrograd, Dec. 30.—It has been apparent since the early stages of the war—and is at present doubly so—that Russia greatly needed an efficient and reliable means of communication with the outside world. The war conditions in the Baltic and the Black Sea left her with only very scanty means of obtaining supplies and munitions. The three chief means were (1) the Archangel route; (2) the Trans-Siberian railway; and (3) the Nirvik-Tornea route. All of these have great drawbacks. The port of Archangel is closed by the iron grip of the Arctic winter for six months in the year—from October to May—and its railway communication with the capital is poor and indirect. The Trans-Siberian route is useless for the rapid transport of supplies and munitions, and the Nirvik-Tornea route involves reshipment at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia, which causes delays and dangers. Russia realized that her success depended, and still depends, on receiving promptly and in large quantities munitions of war. Though the Arctic ocean is the last place in the world where one would expect to find an all-year ice-free port—that is, one that is open all the year round—yet it is so at Ekaterina harbor according to the result of the official investigations. This harbor is situated about 200 miles east of North Cape in Norway, and the anomalous ice-free features are undoubtedly the result of the Gulf Stream, which before finally losing itself in Arctic waters back-washes along the Lapland and Murmansk coast, and prevents more than a thin film of ice ever forming in Ekaterina harbor. To connect this harbor with Petrograd by an efficient railroad was the chief consideration of Russian engineers and contractors were consulted and the plans of men were engaged for the work, which was begun simultaneously at three points. Large gangs of workmen were sent to intermediate points and ordered to build towards the ends.

PREPARATIONS FOR FUNERAL OF GOV. HAMMOND MADE

It is Stated that all New Year's Celebrations will be Curtailed.

St. Paul, Dec. 31.—All preparations for the funeral of Governor Hammond are completed. Escorted by a delegation of prominent Minnesota democrats, the body will arrive here from Chicago tomorrow morning and will lie in state at the capital Saturday and Sunday and be taken to St. James, Minn., for burial Monday. Indications are that the usual New Year's eve celebrations in various hotels and cafes will be greatly curtailed as a result of the death of the governor. Many private entertainments scheduled for tonight have been called off and numerous table reservations at principal hotels and downtown cafes have been cancelled, with the probability that the night will be one of the quietest New Year's celebrations in the history of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

POLICE ARE AT BOTTOM OF CASE

Eight Men Arrested in Connection with Auto Stealing in Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—With the arrest yesterday of eight men, the Chicago police believe they have the nucleus of what has been called the "stolen automobile trust," which is credited with systematic thefts of automobiles each year to the value of \$100,000. According to the police, one of the arrested men confessed.

"This man's story," said Captain Hunt, chief of detectives, "told of how prospective automobile buyers were sent to a so-called, member of the gang. The prospective buyer would state the kind of car he wished and that make of machine would be stolen by another member of the gang. The license tag would be stripped off and the car shipped to some city near Chicago where the sale would be made."

BRITISH LANDING TROOPS IN EFFORT TO CHECK ADVANCE

Place Forces on Greek Coast Near to the Bulgarian Border.

WILL PREVENT SURPRISE MOVE

Both Berlin and London Make Reports on the Operations.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—A report that British troops had been landed on the Greek coast near Kavala was issued by the Havas News agency, which says its information was obtained from The Secolo di Milan.

Kavala is on the northern coast of the Aegean sea, near the Bulgarian border. It is about 30 miles east of Orfano, at which point it was reported from London last night, the British have landed troops sent from Salonika. The intent of these operations is presumably to checkmate any attempts to advance on Salonika across the Bulgarian border.

DUNN CENTER HAS \$50,000 LOSS IN BIG STORE FIRE

Three Places Destroyed Yesterday—Entire City Threatened for a Time.

Mandan, N. D., Dec. 31.—Fire, believed to have started from defective flues at Dunn Center, N. D., completely destroyed a new brick block of three one-story buildings late Thursday afternoon, causing a loss estimated at nearly \$50,000.

The Rosendahl & Nybakken Hardware Co. loss is estimated at \$15,000; the John Thompson general merchandise stock at \$12,000; the Rosendahl & Nybakken warehouse and farm machinery stock at \$4,000. The building was owned jointly by the two companies, and is an estimated loss of \$10,000.

The Dunn Center postoffice and all contents was destroyed, the fire spreading so rapidly it was impossible to get out the mail, and an estimate of the loss cannot be made.

Extreme cold and a high wind for the night threatened the entire town. Proprietors of the stores announced they will rebuild at once. The insurance covers about two-thirds of the loss.

WANTS DISTANCE TO SCHOOL MEASURED

Bismarck, N. D., Dec. 31.—The latest question to come before Attorney General Linde is from a school officer as to how to measure distance from a residence to a school house. In districts where the children are transported to and from the schools there are zones which regulate the per capita tax allowed for transportation. The party desires to know whether the measurement is made from the entrance to his land or from his door.

BELIEVE 15 TO 20 WERE KILLED IN BIG CHICAGO FIRE TODAY

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Reports that 15 or 20 men had been killed in an explosion which set fire to the plant of the American Linseed company in South Chicago were received by the police. After the explosion, the flames spread rapidly and firemen were unable to enter the building where the men were trapped.

More than a hundred men were working in the plant when the explosion occurred. Fatalities are believed to have occurred in a room near the explosion. The flames cut off the escape of the men. Because of the inflammable nature of

RUSSIAN ATTACKS AIMED AT GIVING RELIEF TO SERBS

Czar Still Maintains Silence With Respect to the Operations.

AUSTRIA REPORTS GREATER VIOLENCE

Declares Tremendous Activity on the Part of Eastern Enemy.

London, Dec. 31.—While Vienna reports that battles in Galicia are increasing in extent and violence, Russia maintains a mysterious reticence concerning her military operations there.

It seems certain, however, that extremely important events, the full significance of which has not as yet been officially disclosed, are occurring at the point where the Russian armies can bring any pressure to bear on the Balkan situation, without actually crossing Rumanian territory.

Many reports reach here that the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces not only are abandoning all preparations for advance in Macedonia, but are actually withdrawing troops from this front, their action being attributed to the Russian offensive in Bessarabia. Some of these dispatches bear the impress of the wish being father to the thought.

Active operations in the near east now are centered in Albania, where the Serbian army is said to be suffering heavily.

BRINGS MAN FROM ST. PAUL

Fargo, N. D., Dec. 31.—Sheriff J. C. Ross returned early yesterday morning from St. Paul having in his custody Joe Rice, a tailor formerly employed at the Broadway Tailoring company, at 101 Broadway, who suddenly disappeared Christmas day with several watches and five dollars belonging to Sam Geller, proprietor of the shop.

Rice was arrested by the St. Paul police Tuesday afternoon and denied taking the watches and the five-dollar bill but admitted taking ten dollars. The matter was turned over to the authorities.

Rice will probably be given a preliminary hearing some time today.

EMPEROR SENDS CARDS TO FRONT

Berlin, via London, Dec. 31.—Emperor William is sending New Year greetings to friends at the front in the form of an artistic reproduction of a pastel portrait of himself, bearing the words "Christmas-New Year, 1915-16" and his autograph signature.

Crown Prince Frederick William is sending out a colored picture of himself in the trenches in the Forest of Argonne with the words, in large letters, "Good Luck for the New Year."

WILL VOTE ON PROHIBITION

Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 31.—The people will vote next November on a proposition for statewide prohibition, beginning Jan. 1, 1920. It is also considered probable they will vote on a proposition to stop the retail trade of intoxicants in the state beginning January 1, 1918.

An initiative petition for complete prohibition qualified late yesterday for position on the ballot by the filing in the office of the secretary of state of a sufficient number of signatures. The retail prohibition petition lacks but a few names, with 22 counties to be heard from.

French Submarine Sunk by Austrian Flotilla

Berlin, Dec. 31.—An official Austrian report received here from Vienna says the French submarine Monge was sunk Wednesday by Austrian flotilla.

NEW ANCONA NOTE TO UNITED STATES CLEARS SUBMARINE SITUATION

18,549 TOTAL LOSSES OF BRITISH DURING MONTH OF DECEMBER

SATISFACTION IS GUARANTEED TO THIS NATION

London, Dec. 31.—British casualties recorded in lists published during the month of December amount to 1,001 officers and 17,548 men. These include returns from all points.

Seven Negroes are Dead and Two Whites are Seriously Injured.

Blakely, Ga., Dec. 31.—Excitement caused throughout this section by clashes between white policemen and negroes here yesterday in which seven negroes were killed and two whites seriously hurt, had not entirely died down today.

Influential white citizens are taking strenuous measures to prevent a race riot and possible wholesale bloodshed. Five of the negroes were shot and killed, and two others burned to death, according to reports here, as a result of three pitched battles between the negroes and various bands of whites seeking to capture a negro farmer and his two sons who assassinated Henry V. Hilligree, an over-crowded.

OPEN FIRST CONSOLIDATED. People of Sargent County Flock to Dedication Exercises.

Cayuga, N. D., Dec. 31.—The new consolidated school in Rutland district, Sargent county, was dedicated with impressive ceremonies. Practically every resident of the district was present, besides many residents of Forman, Rutland and Cayuga. Principal D. Mueller of the consolidated school presided, and remarks were made by County Superintendent H. H. Smith, Black of the normal industrial school at Ellendale, and others.

BUCHANAN WILL WAVE IMMUNITY

Congressman to face Charge That He Conspired to Restrain Trade.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Former Representative H. Robert Fowler, Henry B. Martin and Herman Schuyler, identified with the Labor National Peace council, indicted in New York under the Sherman anti-trust law for conspiracy to restrain trade in munitions, demanded a preliminary hearing when they appeared before United States Commissioner Taylor to make formal return to the indictment.

The hearing was set for January 20. Representative Frank Buchanan of Illinois, indicted on the same charge, sent word to the department of justice that he would waive all questions of immunity, go to New York and furnish bail.

Reserves One Point. The Austrian note while announcing the willingness of the Austro-Hungarian government to pay an indemnity for the American victims of the Ancona, declares that the government "cannot assume responsibility for damage caused by the justifiable firing on the fleeing vessel or by the capsizing of the boats before the torpedo was fired."

Washington, Dec. 31.—Danger of a break in diplomatic relations between the United States and Austria-Hungary over the particulars of how the Ancona probably has been cleared away, if the official text of Austria's reply to the second American note conforms to press dispatches from London saying the submarine commander who torpedoed the steamer has been punished.

Punishment of the submarine commander for his failure to take into account the panic prevailing aboard the Ancona before torpedoing the vessel apparently meets the principal American demand. In effect it might be regarded as a disavowal of the act and assurance that an incident for which an officer of the navy was punished would not happen again, might be taken for granted.

SAYS HE MURDERED BUNKIE IN ARMY

Walks into Police Headquarters and Gives Himself Up.

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—W. A. Ojeda, who claimed to be a former private in the Eighteenth United States field artillery, walked into a police station here yesterday and said his conscience troubled him because he murdered his "bunkie" in the Philippines fifteen years ago. He said his "bunkie's" army name was George E. Miller, who is shown by records to have committed suicide near Manila, June 27, 1903. Ojeda, whose service name was the A. Smith, according to his statements, said he was afraid of Miller and had been threatened by him. Miller's right name, he said, was Moore.

SHEVLIN FUNERAL IS HELD TODAY

Millionaire Lumberman is Buried from Family Home in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis, Dec. 31.—Funeral services for Thomas L. Shevlin, former Yale football star and millionaire lumberman, was held at the family residence here today.

Services at Lakewood cemetery, where the body was interred in the family mausoleum, were private. George H. Day, treasurer of Yale university, represented President Kealey at the funeral.

THE WEATHER. North Dakota: Fair tonight and probably Saturday; warmer tonight.

UNIVERSITY READING. 7 a. m., 16; maximum, 19; minimum, 4; barometer, 29.99; wind, west, 5 miles.