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## REPORTS SHOW HEAVY CASUALTIES AND LARGE CAPTURES OF PRISONERS

The French, Germans, Russians and Austrians All Claim Progress at Various Points—The Various Armies Are Fighting With an Intensity Not Exceeded Since the War Began—Center Of Interest Shifts to the South in Poland. Russians Have Resumed the Offensive Against Austro-German Forces in Galicia.

There is heavy fighting nearly everywhere along the entrenched line in Belgium and France and in the eastern zone virtually from the Baltic Sea to the southern side of the Carpathians. News that has been permitted to filter through official channels is not sufficient, however, to show clearly what any of the centers has gained or lost.

The French, the Germans, the Russians and the Austrians all claim progress at various points, but none asserts that a decisive advantage has been gained. From all sides, however, the official reports continue to show heavy casualties and that large captures of prisoners and of munitions of war are taking place.

France, through her parliament, apparently has given evidence of her determination to prosecute the war to the end. Both branches of parliament have passed unanimously the government's bill appropriating \$1,700,000,000 to meet the expenses of the next six months, including the cost of the war.

A newspaper dispatch from Athens asserts that Austria twice has tried to make peace with Serbia, but that each time Serbia declined the proposal.

The London stock exchange will open for business January 4, but trading will be restricted by stringent regulations imposed by the treasury.

Great Britain will indemnify from the public funds those who suffered from the recent German naval raid on the east coast of England.

Rome has received a rumor that Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary is dying.

Queen Wilhelmina has decided personally to take \$1,000,000 of The Netherlands' war loan of \$110,000,000.

(By Associated Press.) LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Allies in the west, the Germans in Poland and the Russians in East Prussia and Galicia continue offensive operations, but the advances have been so slight as to be almost imperceptible. In the long run, however, the ground gained may prove vital and the various armies are fighting with an intensity not exceeded since the war began.

In Poland the center of interest has shifted slightly to the south. Finding the direct road to Warsaw blocked by Russian reinforcements, the Germans made an attack from the southwest and have reached Skierniewice, some 40 miles from the Polish capital. They thus far have failed to pierce the Russian lines, but have forced Grand Duke Nicholas to withdraw from before Warsaw. In this one of the chief aims of their offensive against Russia, the Germans have been successful.

In Galicia the Russians have resumed the offensive against the Austro-German forces which have poured in from the west and across the Carpathians. According to the latest Petrograd report, the Russians have inflicted heavy losses on these forces, while in the north they have pursued back into the interior of East Prussia a small German army which made a feint at Warsaw from the northeast.

Although the Allies have scored some successes in the west, they are meeting with stubborn resistance and military men warn the public that very heavy casualty lists must be expected before any serious impression can be made on the German entrenchments.

Activity seems to have been resumed along the Belgian coast, for it is announced that the Allies have made slight progress between the sea and the road from Neuport to Westende. At other points similar fighting is proceeding here with success and there reverse or failure of attack.

Airmen on both sides have been busy and aeroplanes have been swarming over Belgium, the fliers reconnoitering movements of the opposing troops and occasionally dropping bombs. Bruges and Brussels have been visited by aviators from the ranks of the Allies while Bethune and other towns in northern France have received attention from the Germans.

Granted Xmas Leaves  
WEST POINT, N. Y., Dec. 23.—More than 200 cadets of the three upper classes of the Military Academy have been granted Christmas leaves ranging from four to eight days from today. The entire "plebe" class must remain here over the holidays.

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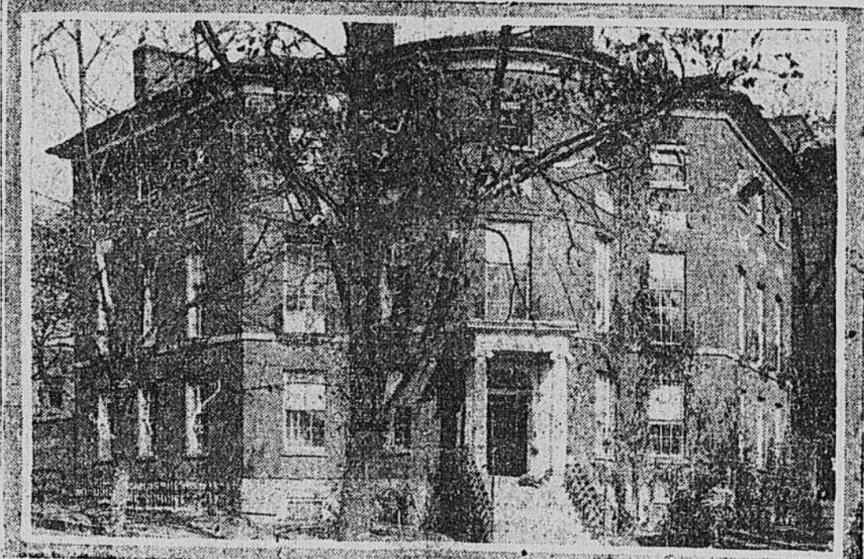
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## Octagon House, Where Treaty of Ghent Was Signed



This is the Octagon house, Washington, occupied by President Madison 100 years ago when he signed the Treaty of Ghent, which was followed by 100 years of peace between the United States and Great Britain. In the last war with Great Britain the White House was burned, and the president had to seek other quarters. In the presence of delegates to the national convention of the American Federation of Architects President Wilson will on December 24, the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the treaty, unveil a tablet commemorating the event. The old house was built in 1800, and was at the time President Madison occupied it, one of the great mansions of the capital.

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## Today Marks a Century of Peace Between English-Speaking Nations

The People of the United States and Great Britain Will Observe the One Hundredth Anniversary Of the Signing of the Treaty of Ghent—The Original Plans Called for a Series of Celebrations in This Country and Across the Water But This is Upset by the Fact the Ancient Belgian City now is Occupied by Germans, With Whom England is at War.

(By Associated Press.) NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The people of the United States and Great Britain tomorrow will observe the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the treaty of Ghent, by reminding themselves that the day marks a century of peace among English-speaking nations.

The original plans called for a series of celebrations in this country and across the water. It was to have begun in Ghent on Christmas Eve with a banquet tendered by the Burgomaster to 50 representatives of the United States, 50 Englishmen and 50 Canadians in the hall where the treaty was signed. This plan is upset by the fact the ancient Belgian city now is occupied by the Germans, with whom England is at war.

To mark the day, the American and British committees, which had been arranging for the peace centenary, issued communications for simultaneous publication Thursday morning in the newspapers in England and the United States.

The British statement expresses the hope that "the disarmed frontier between the United States and Canada may long continue as an example to the world of the safe defence of the mutual respect and trust in the affairs of nations," and prays that "the peace between the British and American democracies, which has so long endured, may never be broken." The British committee has purchased Sulligrav Manor, the ancestral home of George Washington, in England, with a view to presenting it to the American people, but this feature of the celebration also has been postponed until after the war.

The American committee, notwithstanding the war, purposes to carry out in part its original intention of celebrating the peace centenary, and in its communication issued over the signature of a number of widely known citizens, urges suitable commemoration of ratification of the treaty by the United States which followed immediately upon the arrival of its draft in February, 1814. The dates specified are February 17 and 18, for formal addresses at State dinners, and February 22, for exercises in the schools.

The American communication is as follows: "One hundred years ago today there was signed at Ghent in Flanders the treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States, which marked the close of what has happily proved to be the last war between English-speaking peoples of the earth. Today the city of Ghent is at the very center of the terrible conflict that rages in Europe. The American peace centenary committee has not permitted this anniversary to pass without inviting the thoughtful attention of their fellow citizens to the contrast presented by the century long period of peace which English-speaking peoples have enjoyed among themselves on the one hand, and the appalling destruction of life, property and great monuments of civilization which the European war involves on the other. It had been our confident hope that the example which the English-speaking peoples have set in their relations with each other would be followed by the other great nations of the earth in their several international relations. It had been our earnest desire that the spirit of peaceful and friendly cooperation which each of these peoples manifests toward the people of the United States would also mark their dealings with one another. Unfortunately this was not to be, and we are sorrowfully called upon to mark our centenary celebration in the midst of the most terrible and destructive war that history records.

Even at such a time, we must avow once more our sympathetic faith in the supremacy of justice over force, of law over right. We rejoice in the peaceful relations of a hundred years among all English-speaking peoples, and particularly in the undefended and unfortified line nearly four thousand miles in length, which divides the territory of the United States from that of the Dominion of Canada. The mutual trust, forbearance and helpfulness which make that undefended boundary a link and not a barrier between two peoples, we offer as an example to our warring brothers across the sea.

It has been our purpose, when our committee was organized in 1910, to plan for a great celebration of the centenary anniversary by various methods which have now, because of the terrible war which is still convulsing Europe and disturbing the whole world, become impracticable until the close of the conflict.

But we appeal to the people in all the States and to all civic bodies to mark this notable anniversary by suitable exercises in churches of all denominations on the 14th of February, the date agreed upon for that purpose with our associate, the Canadian committee, by formal addresses at the capitals of the respective States on the 17th and 18th of February, the dates of the ratification and proclamation of the treaty; and also by appropriate exercises in all the schools on the 22nd day of February, or on each later date or dates in the spring of 1915 as may be locally deemed preferable.

By which all the children of America should be instructed on the significance of the day.

(Continued on page four.)

Men Arrested in Connection With Alleged Conspiracy to Blow Up Steamer Arraigned in Court.

(By Associated Press.) NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 23.—Hans Halle, George Summers and George Brinkman, arrested last night in connection with an alleged conspiracy to blow up a trans-Atlantic British or French steamer by means of a dynamite bomb to be concealed in her cargo, were arraigned here today in the criminal district court. They were charged with violating a State statute relating to preparing bombs to be used in destroying ships.

Halle announced that he wished to enter a plea of guilty, but Judge Baker refused to accept the plea and the prisoner was remanded to jail in default of \$1,000 bond. Summers also was unable to furnish bond. The case of Brinkman, who was held as an accessory, was dismissed.

The statute under which Halle and Summers were tried was enacted by the State assembly immediately after the Boer war and resulted from the arrest here of a person who was accused of placing a bomb on board a vessel at Chalmette. The vessel was loading mules for the use of the British forces in South Africa. The maximum punishment for violation of the law is 20 years imprisonment.

Dr. P. F. B. German consul general here, today issued a statement saying the men had no official connection with the German government.

Presents Employes With Xmas Turkeys

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—President Wilson today presented each of the White House employes with a 15-pound turkey as a Christmas present. He distributed 125 turkeys, remembering the policemen as well as all the clerks and domestics.

The president plans to commemorate his wife's memory by emulating her action of last year in distributing useful presents to some of the city's poor. Mr. Wilson is a regular contributor to the Washington Associated Charities and through that agency will assist in making many needy families comfortable.

## BIG BREWING COMPANY FAILS

A \$12,000,000 CORPORATION GOES INTO HANDS OF RECEIVERS

STATES VOTING "DRY" THE CAUSE

Crowning Blow Came in Loss of West Virginia Saying Nothing of Virginia Going Dry.

(By Associated Press.) COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 23.—The Hoster-Columbus Breweries Company, a \$12,000,000 corporation, went into the hands of receivers today on order of the federal court. Decreased demand for beer, adverse legislation and the voting "dry" of many States and counties in the last eight years was given as the cause.

The appointment of receivers was made by Judge Sater upon a showing that the company had defaulted payment upon a judgment of \$3,518. The company had \$4,350,000 outstanding capital stock and \$4,999,999 outstanding bonds, with \$6,000,000 stock and the same amount of bonds authorized. Most stocks and bonds were secured by mortgages on property owned by the brewery company in Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana and New Jersey.

In its statement the company declared the voting dry of West Virginia was "the last straw" in a series of legislative acts which reduced seriously the sale of its product.

Reviewing the passage of laws in Ohio by which they said their business was reduced, officials of the company concluded with this statement: "In 1914 the crowning blow came in the loss of West Virginia, where we did a business of nearly \$500,000 a year, to say nothing of old Virginia's voting dry, to go into effect in 1916.

"The company has no debts or liabilities except its regular monthly accounts, accumulated since December 1, and the interest on its outstanding bonds from July 1, due January 1, together with sinking fund requirements."

Out of Employment; Jumps From Building

(By Associated Press.) RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 23.—Miss Elizabeth Smith, aged 22, of Durham, N. C., a stenographer out of employment, jumped from the tenth floor of an office building this afternoon and was crushed to death.

Oldest Woman in U. S. Dead  
NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Mrs. Hannah Koskoff, said to have been the oldest woman in the United States, died here today. According to the most authentic records in the possession of descendants she was 117 years old, having been born in Kief, Russia, in 1797.

Ex-Gov. Ansel Recommended.  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Former Gov. M. F. Ansel, of South Carolina, was recommended by Representative Aiken to President Wilson today for membership on the new federal trade commission.

## Little Girl is Ground to Death Beneath Car Wheels in Greenville

(Special to The Intelligencer.) GREENVILLE, Dec. 23.—Marie Gays, a little white girl of less than seven years, was run over and killed this afternoon by a street car on Main street.

Hundreds of Christmas shoppers were horrified by the accident. The little child, with her mother, started to cross the street, and preceding her mother by several feet, stepped out on the track in front of the car. Before Motorman D. F. Campbell could stop the car, the front truck had run on the small body. The child died while en route to the hospital.

Several persons who witnessed the accident fainted on the streets. A pall was thrown over the shopping crowd, and especially those who heard the pitiful screams of the mother as she saw her daughter, one of her two children, ground to death beneath the wheels of the traction car. The inquest will be held Thursday morning.

## PREPARING FOR ANOTHER FIGHT

PROHIBITION LEADERS REALIGNING FORCES FOR 64TH CONGRESS

NEXT VOTE WILL SHOW A BIG GAIN

Rep. Hobson Reiterates Prediction That Question Will Be a Paramount Issue in 1916.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Undismayed by the defeat in the house last night of the Hobson resolution for a prohibition constitutional amendment, prohibition leaders began re-aligning their forces today for another fight in the 64th congress which meets next December.

Representative Hobson declared a vote at the next session would show a material gain for the cause and reiterated his prediction that should the amendment fall again the question would be a paramount issue in the campaign of 1916.

Prohibition leaders in congress generally are inclined to believe it would be a waste of time to attempt to get action in the senate this session on Senator Sheppard's prohibition amendment resolution which is a duplicate of the defeated house measure.

South Trimble, clerk of the house, examined last night's final roll call for opponents of the Hobson resolution and found that 138 of those who voted against the measure have been re-elected and will serve in the next congress. With the 455 members of the house voting, 146 negatives defeat a proposed constitutional amendment. So, if all those who voted against the resolution last night hold to their positions, it is feared the question will need only a majority of the 455 members in the next congress to make certain in another defeat.

Fatal Injured Fighting Fire.

(By Associated Press.) CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., Dec. 23.—Nearly an entire business block on East Main street was destroyed by fire, which started at 9 o'clock tonight. Three large buildings occupied by stores were burned. The loss is more than \$100,000. S. H. Gleason, a fireman, son of a leading merchant was fatally injured by a fall from an ice-covered ladder.

Emperor Francis Joseph Dying.

(By Associated Press.) ROME, Dec. 23.—(4:50 p. m.)—A rumor is in circulation here that Emperor Francis Joseph, of Austria-Hungary, is dying. The report has it that the emperor-king has received the last sacraments.

## Farm School Destroyed at Asheville, N. C.

(By Associated Press.) ASHEVILLE, N. C., Dec. 23.—Damage to the amount of \$40,000 was done by flames which destroyed the main building of the Asheville Farm School, a short distance from this city, this afternoon. Other buildings were saved after catching fire on several occasions. The institution is the property of the home mission board of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., which founded it 23 years ago. A new building will be built on the site of the burned structure, it was announced tonight.

Two More Ships Loaded With Food

(By Associated Press.) NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Two more ships loaded with food for Belgium sailed from the United States today. They are the St. Kentigerna, from New York, and the Ferrona, from Philadelphia.

The St. Kentigerna has on board 40,000 bushels of wheat from the West. The Ferrona carries a combination cargo made up of contributions from the Belgian relief fund, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the commission for relief in Belgium.