

GREAT BRITAIN SEIZES EGYPT FROM THE TURKS

Declares Protectorate Over 14,000,000 People and Takes Sultan's Last Foot of Territory in Africa, Italy Having Taken Tripoli a Few Years Ago

1,300,000 SQUARE MILES INCLUDED IN SEIZURE

Continued Retreat of Russians is Reported But Petrograd Refuses to Concede Defeat and Characterizes Movement as of No Importance

London, Dec. 18, 12:18 p. m.—Again the Germans and the Austrians seem to be on the crest of the wave of battle as the interminable struggle in the East continues; again Berlin is gay with flags, and again Petrograd declines to concede victory to the invaders.

To the south, where a few weeks ago the Russians were pouring over the Carpathians into Hungary, the combined Austro-German columns have now forced them back and, it is asserted, have advanced two-thirds of the way across Galicia and are nearing the fortress of Lemberg, occupied by the Russians early in the campaign.

The Russian official announcements admit none of this. They dismiss the happenings in Galicia as engagements of no importance, and they class the operations to the west of Warsaw in the same category. It is claimed, moreover, that the extreme Russian right near Mlawka thrust the Germans back and the Russian cavalry swung across the southern border of East Prussia.

In the west arena, no event of great importance is reported. Foot by foot the allies appear to be forcing the Germans out of their trenches in Flanders and maintaining the pressure elsewhere on the front from the sea to Switzerland.

The British press to-day makes a feature of the annexation of Egypt and the Sudan, which takes from the sultan of Turkey 14,000,000 subjects and 1,300,000 square miles of land. This action, moreover, robs the Turk of his last foothold in Africa, Italy having taken Tripoli from him a few years ago.

'VIGOROUS OFFENSIVE' WON FOR ALLIES

Germans Lost Several Engagements According to French Official Statement

Paris, 2:47 p. m., Dec. 18.—A French official statement this afternoon says: "To-day Dec. 17, was marked by an advance on our part in Belgium, where every counter attack undertaken by the enemy failed. In the region of Arras a vigorous offensive made us masters of several trenches. In the region of Tracy-le-Val, on the Aisne and in Champagne our heavy artillery won distinct advantages. In Argonne, the Germans blew up one of our trenches and endeavored to move out from their position with three battalions of troops, but this attack, as well as one they undertook at St. Hubert, was repulsed."

BRITISH PROTECTORATE NOW OVER EGYPT

King George Will Defend the Country and Declare Turkey's Suzerainty Is Ended

London, Dec. 18.—Egypt has been declared a British protectorate. The official press bureau last night issued the following statement concerning the making of Egypt a British protectorate. "His Britannic majesty's principal secretary of state for foreign affairs gives notice that in view of a state of war arising out of the action of Turkey, Egypt is placed under the protection of his majesty and will henceforth constitute a British protectorate. "The suzerainty of Turkey over Egypt is thus terminated and his majesty's government will adopt all measures necessary for the defense of Egypt and the protection of its inhabitants and interests."

URGED AMERICANS TO FIGHT

If Germany Should Invade Canada or Attempt Invasion

Boston, Dec. 18.—If Germany should make a raid on Canada or attempt to invade Canada, I should write and speak in behalf of Americans taking up arms for freedom," was the declaration of Rev. William Harrison, who spoke at the annual meeting of the American Society of the Church of the Nazarene at the fall dinner of the Boston Association of the United University of Vermont at the Hotel Westminister Wednesday night. Dr. Harrison was speaking on the "Moral Principles Involved in the War." He said that he believed that the United States should take up arms if Germany should invade Canada or attempt to invade Canada. He said that he believed that the United States should take up arms if Germany should invade Canada or attempt to invade Canada.

FLEEING SHIPS SANK PURSUERS

Germans Claim That Two Out of Four British Destroyers Were Lost

London, Dec. 18, 3:15 a. m.—Amsterdam dispatches to Reuter's Telegram company contain a German official statement which claims that some of the British destroyers which attacked the raiding squadron off the British coast were sunk. The communication says: "The retreating cruisers were attacked by four British destroyers, one of which was sunk. Another disappeared, badly damaged. At another point another British destroyer was sunk."

REPORT CONTRARY TO BRITISH STATEMENT

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GERMAN SHIPS SUFFERED LITTLE

Berlin, via Amsterdam to London, Dec. 18, 3:25 a. m.—The following official details concerning the German squadron's attack on the east coast of England are published: "When approaching the English coast our cruisers were unsuccessfully attacked by four British torpedo boat destroyers in misty weather."

"The batteries at Hartlepool were silenced and the gas works destroyed. There were several detonations and three big fires in the town could be observed from our ships."

"The coast guard station and water works at Scarborough and the coast guard station and signal station at Whitby were destroyed."

"Our ships received some shots from the coast batteries, but suffered only slight damage. (Signed) 'VON BEHNEKE.'"

A TRIUMPH OF ARMY SURGERY

54 Per Cent of French Wounded Return to Firing Line

Paris, Dec. 18.—No fewer than 54 per cent of the French wounded returned to the firing line before December 12, according to interesting figures supplied yesterday by the surgical department of the ministry of war. Of the remainder, 24 per cent had been given convalescent leaves, 17 per cent had been discharged from the army. Three and one-half per cent of the wounded died.

FOUR MEN ESCAPED BY BLANKET ROPE

Inmates of County Jail at Concord, N. H., Made Sensational Escape Last Night—Were In For Minor Offenses

Concord, N. H., Dec. 18.—Harry H. Miller, John Donovan, William M. Hartford and Donald Snow, serving sentences at the Merrimack county jail for minor offenses, made a sensational escape from that institution last night. In the new part of the jail in which the men were confined the steel flooring over the cells extends to within six inches of the walls of the wing. The men worked their way through the narrow aperture thus left and, once on the floor, broke through the ceiling into the attic and reached a window on the north side of the building, from which they lowered themselves by means of a rope made by tying three blankets together.

BOMBARDED TOWNS PROTECTED

Declared Attache of German Embassy at Washington

New York, Dec. 18.—Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby, the three English towns which were bombarded by German warships, are defended places and therefore the Germans were justified in shelling them, is the substance of a statement given out last night by Captain Francis von Eynen, military attache of the German embassy at Washington. The statement follows: "In reference to yesterday's bombardment of three English coast towns, Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby by the German fleet, attention is respectfully called to article one of the Hague convention of Oct. 18, 1907, which says: "The bombardment by naval forces of undefended ports, towns, villages, dwellings or buildings is forbidden."

OVERCOME BY GAS IN CHURCH

Fifteen People Had to Be Carried Out in Fall River, Mass.

Fall River, Mass., Dec. 18.—During the services at the St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic church last night 15 members of the congregation suddenly fell to the floor unconscious from coal gas. They were carried into the open air by other worshippers and were revived by physicians who were hastily summoned. The police said that an investigation showed that the draft on the two furnaces had not been properly adjusted after coal had been put on the fire.

WATCHMAN KILLED PROWLER

Thomas Ferry Was Victim of Lawrence G. James in Boston

Boston, Dec. 18.—Thomas Ferry was shot and fatally wounded last night by Lawrence G. James, watchman on the third of the Boston Cold Storage Co., in East Boston. After Ferry's death a few hours later James was arrested on a charge of manslaughter. James told the police he had been prowling for several months and asked to stop. The man advanced toward him, then he fired a shot which struck Ferry in the chest. James thought he was going to the store and did not know the man was a watchman. James said he would not go to jail with a rap, "don't the cops, I'm dead now."

GARDNER TESTIFYING

To Close Public Hearing On Preparation of United States for War

Washington, Dec. 18.—The public hearings on the naval appropriation bill, which have been in progress for the close past several days, were closed today by the testimony of Mr. Gardner, secretary of the United States Navy. He testified that the United States is not prepared for war.

TRAINED LIONS SENT CROWD INTO PANIC

New York Theatre Scene of Turbulence as Animals Roamed About—One Policeman Shot as Attempt Was Made to Round Up Beasts in Street

New York, Dec. 18.—Six trained lions escaped from their cage on the stage of an East Eighty-Sixth street vaudeville theatre yesterday and bounding into the audience, consisting principally of women and children, created a panic. One lioness, Alice, the largest of the pack, escaped into the crowded street. Policemen pursued her into the hallway of a nearby apartment house and in shooting at her probably fatally wounded a companion, Sergeant Daniel Glenn. Two other officers were slightly wounded by the claws of the beast in a battle at close range.

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EASTERN ROADS ALLOWED RAISE

Interstate Commerce Commission Gives Them Virtually Five Per Cent

Washington, D. C., Dec. 18.—Increases in freight rates of approximately 5 per cent on all railroads between the Atlantic seaboard and the Mississippi river, north of the Potomac and Ohio rivers, were granted to-day by the interstate commerce commission in a divided opinion, excepting upon certain commodities which comprise a large bulk of the traffic. The increases will further apply to the railroads west of Buffalo and Pittsburgh, which were granted partial advances in a decision last August, which was denied altogether to the roads east of those points.

WILL INCREASE THE RECEIPTS \$30,000,000

Two Members of the Commission Dissented from Report

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CAR BUMPED A TEAM

Horses Did a Few Circus Stunts—Other Horse Features About Barre

Zero conditions in town and outside have had their effect on driving and draft horses within the past two days, the animals seemingly becoming inured to the cold weather only by degrees. Since yesterday at least three minor road accidents have been reported with sensational features and with potential possibilities of grave danger for the drivers. At the Granite street intersection of North Main street this forenoon, a driver of one of the dump carts used in transporting material to the new hospital, had his car too warmly bundled to hear the approach of a street car from the north. It was when he started to rein his horses across the trolley track that the Washington street car bumped into the wagon. The driver was nearly unseated and the horses escaped a number of rancid steps which whirled the outfit around as many as three times, spectators, before the excitement was over. More damage and serious results were probably averted by the fact that Conductor W. A. Lawson in charge of the street car, applied his brakes swiftly and brought the car almost to a dead halt when he saw that the driver was unaware of his precarious position between the rails.

Two women from Williamstown formed a cynosure for many eyes when their horse became unmanageable on South Main street yesterday afternoon. What little control the driver was able to exercise over her steed when he first became frightened seems to have disappeared as the team neared the Barre railroad crossing and from that point to the Howland block the occupants of the sleigh had their fill of thrills. Passing the federal building, the horse swept to a team pulling out of Prospect street, pushed the other horse to one side, and continued his mad career as far as the Woolworth store, where it was stopped. The women went into the store to regain control of their nerves.

A grover's boy left his charge standing outside of a house on Brook street this forenoon and when he returned from a chat with one of his customers, the horse was gone. The boy had his way with another blanketless horse. Not long afterward the horse was stopped on Main street, where it was held until the driver came along to claim it. Little incidents of this kind are common but each has a moral for the careless driver who fails to cover his horse with a blanket.

WAR ORDER IN BURLINGTON

Woolen Mills to Make Blankets for One of Warring Powers

Burlington, Dec. 18.—Woolen mills here will work Saturday half-holidays and Sundays to fill a large order for blankets said to be for one of the warring European powers. It was announced yesterday. For the past two weeks the mills have been running day and night.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Men and women of the Universalist church held a pleasant Christmas party in the vestry of the church last evening, when more than 100 people gathered to join in the merry-making. One of the most enjoyable features of the evening was a musical program of vocal and instrumental numbers, prepared and carried out under the direction of Principal O. K. Hollister of Goddard seminary. Contributors included some of the best local talent available, and the numbers were heartily applauded. Evidence of appreciation of the pastor's services during the year came in the tangible form of a valuable leather binding which W. A. Drew presented Rev. J. S. Reynolds in behalf of the laymen's league of the church. Mrs. Reynolds was the recipient of a purse containing \$25 in gold from the local ladies. Rev. Reynolds feelingly thanked the contributors and served before the party came to an end.

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FORMER GODDARD STUDENT

Hiram S. Conant Died in Burlington of Apoplexy

Burlington, Dec. 18.—Hiram S. Conant died at about 4:30 o'clock yesterday morning at his home at 60 Elmwood avenue following an attack of apoplexy suffered at about 11 o'clock the night before. He had been in failing health for four years, but was in his usual health Wednesday, attending to duties in the business part of the city. Hiram S. Conant was born on April 20, 1854, the son of Harriet M. and Samuel Conant of Richmond. He was educated in Goddard seminary and spent his early life in Richmond, moving to this city in 1898. He was proprietor of the Burlington fish market on Bank street for nine years, closing that business out on account of ill health. Mr. Conant married Miss Cynthia A. Keyson of Richmond, who survives him. He also leaves two sons, Roby E. Conant and Samuel B. Conant; two grandchildren, Muriel H. and Samuel K. Conant, all of this city, and one sister, Mrs. Harriet M. Patrick of Jericho. Mr. Conant was a member of the Universalist church and of Good Samaritan lodge of Odd Fellows at Richmond. There will be a prayer service at his late home on Elmwood avenue at 10 o'clock Saturday morning and the body will be taken on the 11 o'clock train to Richmond, where the funeral services will be held at one o'clock, at the Universalist church, with interment in the family lot.

THEY SANG "TIPPERARY"

But They Violated No Neutrality at William Coult's Send Off

One of the best send offs of the season was made last evening at the home of Mrs. Francis Thompson at 1 Spaulding street, when about 60 friends of William Coult gathered there to give him a farewell reception. Mr. Coult had decided to return to his home in Scotland and, unknown to him, his friends prepared to give him a royal send-off. For nine years Mr. Coult has been a resident of Barre, coming here from Scotland. Until recently he was employed at Barclay Bros.' stone shed. When the party dropped in upon him shortly after supper time, Mr. Coult was very much surprised. At once the enjoyment of the evening began. Nearly every person of the party responded when called upon for a song. One of the best of these was one by James Monroe, for when called he appeared from another room dressed in woman's garments. With his song he gave an exhibition of dancing which caused a constant uproar from start to finish. "Tipperary," the known war song, was sung frequently. In behalf of the company Alex. Porter presented, Mr. Coult a suit case and a gold-mounted cigar case filled with cigars. After this, sandwiches, cake, coffee and fruit were served to the company. During the evening cigars and candy were passed to the guests. When it came time for Mr. Coult to leave for the train the assembly, with a few exceptions, went to the depot and accompanied him to Montpelier Junction where they wished him a safe journey. Tomorrow Mr. Coult leaves New York for Aberdeen, Scotland, on the Transylvania.

F. T. PARSONS REAPPOINTED

Named by Governor Fletcher as Sergeant-at-Arms for Two Years

Frank T. Parsons of Montpelier to-day received a reappointment as sergeant-at-arms of the state of Vermont by Governor Fletcher, with the term of office to run two years. Mr. Parsons is preparing to furnish the usual bond of \$5,000.

TALK OF THE TOWN

In most of the city schoolhouses this afternoon there were appropriate Christmas exercises before the children were dismissed for their two weeks' vacation. Exercises of a pretentious nature were the rule and not the exception and some of the teachers, in their desire to make the occasion a happy one for the youngsters, went so far as to have a Christmas tree. At the Woodchuck Knoll school, as called, there was a very attractive Christmas tree and favors of confectionery placed in paper boxes made by the children themselves were distributed to the students. In most instances, too, teacher was not forgotten, and as a special substitute for the red apple which teacher usually gets from some indulgent scholar in the morning, she received a much more substantial token of the children's esteem.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Firemen on regular duty at the station were notified of a threatening chimney fire at 9 1/2 Mount street yesterday afternoon and one of their number was sent to that address with a lantern extinguisher. A stovepipe leading to the chimney was rather hot when the fireman arrived and a well-developed blaze was discerned in the chimney. A charge of chemical fluid from the little hand tank was necessary before the danger had passed. With the arrival of cold weather the firemen are constantly on the alert for little calls of this sort and a response is usually made very promptly. Household fires are reported to conduct a thorough inspection of their chimneys at this time of the year, as a bit of prevention just now may mean the means of averting a bad fire some time later in the season.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Very moving appeals to the sympathies of Barre Scotch people are contained in the letters received here daily from relatives in Aberdeen and something of the horrors of war as yet unknown to the newspaper dispatches in Scotland across the water. These appeals are appreciated and the danger of a German raid on the North Sea coast of England and Scotland must have been lightened by the recent bombardment of Scarborough, Whitby and other towns, as letters that came to Barre people from Aberdeen before the appearance of the German cruisers off Flamborough Head last evening to the belief that tanks of the eastern part of the British Isles have been alive to the danger of invasion or bombardment for some time. A letter received here very recently contains a prophecy that German during would send German ships out from the North Sea with a view to capturing the Scotch coast. A part of the British fleet was lying off Aberdeen when the alarm was received. Naturally Aberdeen is being harassed in being far across the water and the British fleet is being sent to Aberdeen to protect the coast. The British fleet is being sent to Aberdeen to protect the coast.

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OUTLOOK GOOD FOR J. K. OF K.

Knights of Pythias Adjunct Held Annual Meeting in Barre

MEMBERS GATHERED FROM MANY PLACES