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GERMANS PRESS IN DOUBLE DRIVE TOWARD WARSAW

Victory at Lodz Opens Way for Advance by Both Hindenburg's Wings, and Vigorous Assaults Are Made on Railway Centres Leading to Polish Capital.

Capture of Lodz and German successes at both ends of the main Poland battle line have opened Warsaw to a double drive.

Both Vienna and Nish claim important gains in the fighting south of Belgrade.

In the western theatre of war the Allies' offensive is being pushed with vigor from the coast to the Argonne.

At four points long the battle line the Allies have gained ground in the last 24 hours and have maintained all their positions against counter attacks.

Turkish troops routed a British landing force at a point north of the Persian Gulf. Capture of Keda, east of Batum, is also claimed by Ottoman forces.

CAPTURE OF LODZ EXPOSES WARSAW TO DOUBLE DRIVE

von Hindenburg's Army Makes 30-Mile Advance Toward Capital.

A new drive on Warsaw, the objective of the second German campaign in Poland, will follow the advantage gained by the capture of Lodz.

GERMANS CONTROL RAILROADS

With Lodz taken and advances of 23 miles having been made on both flanks, the Germans in Poland are gaining control of the main railroads leading direct to Warsaw.

HARD FIGHTING NEAR COAST

It is reported from Fures that severe fighting is in progress around Elverdige, which is on the railway line connecting Ypres with Furnes.

KAISER GAINS 30 MILES

The last fighting in the direction of Piotrkow was reported at Sarzawow, which is about 30 miles south of west of that point and about half way to

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRENCH

In the region of the Year we continue to attack some trenches which the enemy has maintained upon the left bank of the canal.

In the region of Amantieres and of Arras, as in that of the Aisne, the Aisne and the Argonne, there is nothing to report except that in a general way the superiority of our offensive has been demonstrated.

In the Champagne district our heavy artillery, in several engagements has gained a marked advantage over the artillery of the enemy.

There is nothing new on the eastern front, where the positions of the previous day have been maintained.

GERMAN

Headquarters reports that the Germans are in possession of Lodz. The Germans have gained important successes in Northern Poland. They have fought great battles with strong Russian forces around Lodz, which town is now in full possession of our forces.

We are unable to give the details of the battle of Lodz, owing to the extent of the battlefield, but the Russian losses were undoubtedly great.

Austro-German activities to the southwest of Piotrkow prevented the Russians coming to the assistance of the threatened Russian armies in Northern Poland.

Headquarters announces that no special reports have been received from the western theatre of war or from the region east of the Mazurian Lakes (East Prussia).

ALLIES' OFFENSIVE PUSHED WITH VIGOR ALONG ENTIRE LINE

French Attack Showing Superiority From Coast to Argonne—Kaiser's Artillery at Disadvantage.

PARIS, Dec. 7.

A determined offensive is now being pressed by the Allies from the coast to the Argonne. The official communique issued from the War Office today declares the French attack is greatly superior to the German, and the heavy French artillery is gaining the advantage over that of the Germans.

GAINS AT FOUR POINTS.

Official information from the front says that the Allies have gained ground at the following points: On the Yser Canal, south of Dixmude, where British and French troops supported by heavy artillery, drove the Germans from their advanced positions.

North of Cambrai, between Bessene and La Bassée, where the heavy artillery of the French caused such havoc in the invaders' trenches, that the Germans abandoned them, leaving many dead and wounded behind.

Northwest of Verdun, on the Apremont-Clermont highway, where the German artillery which had been planted to command the Varennes-St. Remond road was silenced.

Near Dammerkirch, in the southern ranks of the Vosges, where the French are moving forward large bodies of reinforcements.

Hard fighting is in progress around Aspich, where the French are carrying on a vigorous bombardment with guns which were carried across the snow-filled passes of the Vosges with enormous difficulties.

In west Flanders the British are striving to push toward Sladen, which is only eight miles southwest of Thourout and five miles northwest of Roulers. It is at this point that the French say they have demolished a German field fort.

GERMANS SINK STEAMSHIP BOUND FOR COPPER CARGO

Merchants' Liner Destroyed Off Coast of Chili.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 7.—The German transport Prinz Eugen today sank the Merchants' liner Charcas off the Chilean coast, 30 miles north of Valparaiso. The Charcas was bound for Guayaquil, where a cargo of ore was to have been taken aboard for New York.

The Germans took the crew of the Charcas to Papudo Bay, 24 miles northwest of Valparaiso. Guayaquil is on the coast of Chili and large copper smelting works are located there.

THE WEATHER For Philadelphia and vicinity: Rain or snow tonight; Tuesday cloudy; 4 to 6 inch change in temperature; high northwest winds shifting to north-west tonight and diminishing.

PEDESTRIANS STRUGGLING WITH HIGH WINDS AND DRIVING RAIN AND SLEET



The storm which has swept the Atlantic coast continued with unabated violence in the city and vicinity today.

Thousands of persons were late crossing street corners where doors who could avoid it and at

72-MILE GALE BATTERS COAST; MILLION LOSS

Worst Storm in Years Rips Away Houses and Piers. Six Lives Lost—Wires Down in City—Ships in Distress.

COST OF STORM IN CITY AND ALONG THE COAST

Six lives lost, three in or near Philadelphia, one at Atlantic City. Two men went down with the bay schooner William Donnelly off Thimble Shoals tonight.

Property damage along the coast estimated at \$1,000,000. Trolley, telephone, telegraph and electric light wires and trams down in this city, signs smashed or blown away, pedestrians endangered by dangling live wires.

Atlantic City's loss more than \$40,000, including damage to music hall of Steel Pier and destruction of cottages, some owned by Philadelphians.

Many ships in distress along the coast. Revenue cutters are racing to their assistance. Sea walls of solid concrete undermined and washed away or battered down by boardwalk plants at nearly every New Jersey resort.

New storm from off North Carolina now raging. Gale not expected to spend itself for two days. Numerous ships along the coast not reported and believed to be in distress.

Wind velocity yesterday 30 miles at Delaware Breakwater and Hook Island, 30 miles at Nantuxet, 30 miles at Atlantic City, and 30 miles in city. The wind since has increased in violence off the Jersey coast and sea-faring men say it has reached a velocity at some points of 40 miles an hour.

The worst storm in years is battering the Atlantic coast from Maine to Carolina today on the crest of a gale blowing at an average rate of 20 miles an hour, smashing through oak and concrete bulkheads, tearing away the foundations of piers and cottages and driving scores of ships before it. The loss is estimated so far as believed to exceed \$1,000,000.

Little revenue cutters are taking destruction along the coast to fight their way to vessels in distress and others that have failed to respond to instant calls of the wireless. From Cape Hatteras to New England points the storm is especially severe. Seamen say the toll of ships and lives will be the largest in many years.

Some are falling in the upper Chesapeake, Lake and Plains States regions and is expected in New England and New York. The fury of the wind inland is not as great as at sea, but the rain, sleet has been reported in Philadelphia where it operated for several years.

STRANDED WARSHIP FREE AFTER VAIN CALL FOR AID

Vessel Believed for Time to Be the Kansas Puts to Sea.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—A vessel believed to be a foreign warship, aground off Ocean City, Md., got off shortly before noon today after sounding her siren incessantly for hours in a vain call for assistance. The sea was too rough for lifesavers to put out. The vessel put to sea, according to lifesavers who returned from North Beach.

The ship, which had four funnels, had her siren blowing incessantly for assistance, according to a message to the Navy Department from the keeper of the lifesaving station at Ocean City. The message received in response to an inquiry by Secretary of the Navy Daniels read:

"Am unable to ascertain nationality or kind of ship. Has four funnels, two masts, fighting top on each as far as possible to see. Weather thick. Ship blowing for assistance."

Rumors were current about the department that the stranded vessel was the battleship Kansas, but this was doubted by navy officials.

Admiral Fletcher, commander of the Atlantic fleet, pointed out that the Kansas had only three funnels, while the vessel off Ocean City had four.

TWO SCHOOLS CLOSED BY SCARLET FEVER CASES

Institutions Will Be Opened Only After Quarantine.

Discovery of two scarlet fever cases in two city schools today resulted in the dismissal of classes until the buildings are fumigated. Frank Bernstein, a pupil at the Walton School, 25th and Huntingdon streets, who had been ill for several days, was suffering from scarlet fever, according to a diagnosis Saturday.

George W. Childs School, 17th and Tasker streets, was closed after it was learned that George McGuire, a sixth-grade pupil, was ill from scarlet fever. Both schools will be closed until they are thoroughly fumigated.

Frank a Step Nearer Gallows

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The United States Supreme Court today denied the writ of error prayed for by the attorneys of Leo Frank, convicted in the Georgia courts of the murder of Mary Phagan. This action leaves the Governor's clemency as the only means through which the condemned man can escape the death penalty.

Governor Clayton has announced his purpose of giving the testimony in the case a careful and impartial examination, and said he would be guided by the result of this examination.

"Dr." Flower Sentenced to Two Years

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—Two years in Sing Sing was the punishment meted out today to 73-year-old "Dr." Richard C. Flower, who was indicted in 1907 for swindling advances that totaled him more than \$2,000,000. "Dr." Flower had many victims in Philadelphia where he operated for several years.

WARLIKE ITALIANS' WEAPONS SEIZED

Reservists Going Home on Ancona Talk of Going to Front.

Fifteen hundred Italian Reservists, ostensibly "going home for Christmas," left the Municipal pier at Vine street, on the Italian liner Ancona shortly after noon today, after each man had been searched on the deck of the liner for weapons. The men are going home to join their regiments in the Italian army, according to their statements through interpreters.

A detail of police from the 4th and Race streets station, under Lieutenant McBride and six detectives from City Hall, was sent to keep order in the crowd of 500 Italian men and women who went to the pier, disregarding the driving rain, to cheer their returning fellow countrymen.

Officials of the line explained the unusually large number of strikers men between the ages of 15 and 35 years returning on the Ancona by saying that they probably were going home for Christmas. Few of the passengers on the liner bore out this statement. Most of them proudly said they were on their way to join the colors of their native land.

A good-sized arsenal of revolvers of all makes and dates, pistols and ordinary knives were collected in the search of the reservists. Police headquarters sent a tip to the officials of the boat that many of the men returning home probably would be armed.

They advised that the passengers be searched. This was done on the deck as the reservists came aboard. Men on the ship who made the search said that nearly every man had some kind of a weapon.

Fears that the German cruisers, said to be in the Atlantic might make an attempt to halt the Ancona and prevent the return to Italy of the reservists were expressed at the pier by some of the minor officers. It was said that in Italy all the newspapers were "playing up" the necessity of mobilizing the army to its greatest strength. The war spirit is everywhere. Through the Italian papers it has apparently penetrated to the Italians living in the United States.

The Ancona will stop at New York and then will go to Naples, Genoa and Palermo.

The detectives detailed to the crowd to keep order were Lynch, Farrell, Mulholland, Gurr and Walsh. They had no trouble. While the havers were being cast off the struts stood bareheaded and sang stirring songs in their native tongue.

ONE KILLED, THREE HURT IN SWARTHMORE AUTO CRASH

Salesman for Allen Packing Company Loses Life in Head-on Collision.

One man was instantly killed and three others were badly injured at a head-on collision yesterday when an automobile truck of the Allen Packing Company at Media and another automobile crashed head-on at Riverside and Baltimore avenues, Swarthmore.

The dead man was a salesman for the packing company and was on the front seat. He was crushed to death between the wreckage of the two machines.

Slippery roads that caused the machines to slide were responsible for the accident. Drivers of both machines had their brakes on at the time but the auto slid forward at no perceptible reduction of speed. The wreckage blocked traffic on the Swarthmore Philadelphia Tractor Company tracks for more than an hour. The injured men were taken to a hospital.

VACANT CHAIRS TELL 'LAME DUCK' STORY AS CONGRESS OPENS

Final Sitting of Sixty-third Session Begins—President to Read Message Tomorrow.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—After voting for a joint session of Congress for tomorrow to hear the President read his message, both the House and the Senate adjourned this afternoon. The third and final session of the 63d Congress convened at noon, and today's proceedings were of a routine character.

In both the House and the Senate there were many absent seats, being vacated chiefly by members of the "lame-duck" variety.

The House got under way for its last lap with a wave of cheers. Speaker Clark was swamped with applause. Democrats yelled themselves hoarse. The galleries were crowded with visitors. In the Senate more decorum was observed.

The 52d session expires by Constitutional limitation on March 4.

SEVENTY-NINE ANSWER FIRST BOLLCALL IN THE SENATE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—When the Senate assembled at noon today for the last session of the 63d Congress, 79 Senators answered to their names on the call for a quorum. The Senators came early and the hum of conversation soon resembled an afternoon reception.

Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania, had warm welcome from his Republican and Democratic colleagues, returning to the Senate an overwhelming victor after one of the most sensational campaigns in recent years.

As the hand of the big clock over the entrance of the Senate Chamber marked noon Vice President Marshall rapped for order. The Senate chaplain, the Rev. Forest D. Pretyman, offered the prayer, asking that the Senate now assembling be guided along the right path in the delicate conditions existing today.

The Vice President then declared the Senate in session.

The credentials of a number of the Senators who were re-elected in November were presented. Senator Rankin, of Alabama, presented the credentials of Oscar W. Underwood, the present majority leader of the House, who comes to the Senate at the close of the present Congress.

Senator Ollie James, of Kentucky, presented the credentials of Senator Candler, who was re-elected for the short term ending March 4 next, and Senator Chandler took the oath of office.

Senator Kern, of Indiana, and Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire, were appointed a committee to wait upon the President with a committee from the House and inform him that Congress was in session and ready to receive any message he desired to submit.

MERCHANTS UNITE IN BIG "L" PROTEST

Representatives of 10,000 Businessmen Oppose Costello's Scheme for High Speed Line as Subterfuge to Obstruct Taylor Plan.

Meetings of Protest Against Costello's Hold-Up Transit Bill

TONIGHT. Passyunk Avenue Business Men's Association, southeast corner Passyunk avenue and Moore street. North Philadelphia Business Men's Association, 428 Germantown avenue. TUESDAY NIGHT. Cobochestek Business Men's and Taxpayers' Association. WEDNESDAY NIGHT. Fortieth and Market Streets Business Men's Association. THURSDAY NIGHT. East Germantown Improvement Association. FRIDAY NIGHT. Fox Chase Improvement Association. MONDAY, DECEMBER 14. South Oak Lane Improvement Association. And these are only the advance guard.

Philadelphia will not accept Costello transit.

A mighty protest against the hold-up ordinance, introduced by the Congressman-elect from Frankford on Thursday, has been registered in every section of the city.

The United Business Men's Association, representing a membership of 10,000 and 32 other affiliated and unaffiliated organizations in every part of the city, have gone on record as opposed to the Costello plan. Officers of these organizations, together with representatives of numerous civic and improvement bodies, declare Philadelphia will not be held up such by a short-sighted ordinance and are planning a demonstration to show their approval of the Taylor plan.

It is the consensus of opinion that a more unopposed measure concerning the welfare of the people has never been introduced in Councils, with the possible exception of the 1906 act.

Not only those who live in various parts of the city, but residents of Costello's own district, declare his bill is the result of "a minister, unprincipled, pitiless, selfish scheme for personal political purposes."

Emphatic proof as to where the entire city stands on the matter is shown by the fact that protest meetings will be held in different localities every night this week, and waving will be given every Councilman, if they will be expected to have the interests of their constituents in mind with a considering regard to the matter.

Many Councilmen have already gone on record declaring themselves against the Costello anti-speed bill, and if an attempt is made to force the ordinance through by any rule the people will march to the Council chambers and express their own opinions in the matter.

Officials of business men's associations and improvement organizations to urge

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