

LAS VEGAS OPTIC

HAPPY and prosperous may the New Year be to everybody who deserves those two blessings.

VOL. XXXVI. NO. 92

LAS VEGAS DAILY OPTIC, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1914.

CITY EDITION

THE ALLIES' GENERAL OFFENSIVE PROVES COSTLY AND USELESS

GERMANS WIN TREMENDOUS VICTORY IN POLAND CAPTURING OVER SIXTY THOUSAND PRISONERS

TURKS DEFEATED WITH LARGE LOSSES

London, Dec. 31.—There are increasing indications in the opinion of British observers of events on the continent, that serious allied movements against the whole German line in the western zone must be postponed until such time as the larger contingent of Lord Kitchener's army can take the field.

The losses of the allies, sustained up to the present time in the tentative thrusts forward movement have been heavy in proportion to the gains achieved, and it is understood the various leaders unite in the opinion that the sacrifices entailed by a general advance at this time would be too great.

The town of La Bassée, still by the Germans, is proving to be one of the hardest problems the allied forces have to solve. The invaders have thrown up exceptionally strong earthworks around La Bassée and have two army corps quartered in the city. To take this stronghold by direct assault would mean a terrible loss of life, but its taking is essential to any concerted movement forward in order to afford protection to the communications of the allies.

All the news reaching London from the eastern field leads to confirm the rout of the forces of Austria which now appear to be endeavoring to make their way laboriously back over the Carpathians. There are indications in London that the political situation which involves Greece, Italy, Rumania and Portugal, is developing day by day. Even the participation in the war of at least some of these states soon will become a reality according to the view of certain British commentators on the situation.

The French Statement

Paris, Dec. 31.—The French official announcement given out in Paris this afternoon relates a continuance of artillery exchanges with the enemy and of further advances measured by yesterday's announcement of French points on the line of battle.

Counterattacks of the enemy were driven back, and in Alsace a certain village is held half by German and half by French troops. The fighting here has been from house to house, and it continued today.

The text of the communication follows: "From the sea as far as the Aisne yesterday passed with relative calm. There were artillery exchanges on some points of the front. In Champagne to the west of the Alger farm, which is north of Sillery, in the sector of Rheims, the enemy during the night blew up two of our trenches and then delivered against these positions an attack which our men repulsed.

"To the north of Meunil-Les-Hurlus we occupied certain positions on the enemy's second line of defense. In this same region, at a point to the north of the farm of Beauséjour, we also occupied some trenches. The enemy delivered a counter-attack, but he was driven back. We then resumed the offensive and we were successful in gaining some more ground.

TODAY'S DEVELOPMENTS

The views of Great Britain concerning the detention of American vessels by British warships were made known today to Ambassador Page by Foreign Secretary Grey in London. Although the formal reply to President Wilson's note has not been drafted, Earl Grey outlined the position taken by himself and his colleagues.

The French army of invasion in Alsace has made a further advance, and today's official report from Paris says that the town of Steinbach has been entered and half of it captured. So far as the French statement shows there have been no other changes of note in the west, although several small advances are said to have been made.

A report from Russian sources indicates that the defenders of the Galician fortress of Przemyśl, which has been under siege by the Russians for several weeks, have been reduced to desperate straits. It is said that an Austrian aeroplane brought down while attempting to enter Przemyśl was found to be loaded with food. German reports some time ago, however, said that Przemyśl was stocked with provisions sufficient for one year.

From the fragmentary and conflicting official reports of the war to-day, two main tendencies are observed. In the west, along the entire front from Alsace to the North sea, the allies are exerting steady pressure and, according to their claims, some of which have not been disputed by Germany, they have made a slow progress almost everywhere. In the east the defeat of the Austrians in Galicia is not denied, and the German forces in Poland appear to have found it extremely difficult to continue their advance toward Warsaw. Berlin states that further progress is being made, but Petrograd believes the German offensive has broken down.

An official communication from Petrograd indicates that one of the most sanguinary battles of the war, in proportion to the numbers involved, has taken place in the trans-Caucasus. The Russians state that a Turkish column was dispersed by artillery and that the Turks lost half of their number.

The Japanese nation has requested that a Japanese army be sent to Europe. It is said in Tokio that Russia and France favor the project, but that Great Britain hesitates on account of "economic and political difficulties."

The Servian minister to France is quoted in Paris as saying that Servia is planning an invasion of Hungary.

Much interest is manifested in the raid of seven German aeroplanes upon Dunkirk yesterday in which 15 persons were killed and 32 wounded by shrapnel bombs dropped from the sky.

WEALTHY MAN ACCUSED OF WHITE SLAVERY

WOMAN WHO MAKES CHARGE IS INDICTED, ALSO, FOR ATTEMPTED BRIBERY

Chicago, Dec. 31.—An indictment charging Colonel Charles Alexander, wealthy steel magnate of Providence, R. I., with violation of the Mann white slave act, was returned in the federal court today, together with an indictment charging attempted bribery against Miss Jessie Elizabeth Cope of Los Angeles, the woman he is alleged to have transported.

delle, in the region of the forest of Mortemart about 150 yards of German trenches fell into our hands.

"In upper Alsace French troops have entered the village of Steinbach and have occupied with house-to-house fighting one-half of the community."

The German Version

Berlin, Dec. 31 (by wireless to London).—The German official statement given out in Berlin this afternoon relates that in the village of Steinbach, in Alsace, house after house was destroyed by the French artillery, but that the community is still in possession of the Germans. An entire French company was annihilated in the northern end of the line; French attacks south of Rheims were repulsed; in the Argonne the Germans occupied several French trenches and their artillery broke down French attacks in upper Alsace.

The situation in east Prussia, north of the Vistula and on the Pilsa river, is described and unchanged, while east of the Bzura river the fighting continues. The text of the communication follows:

"In the western arena of the war yesterday passed quietly on the coast. The enemy directed his fire on Westende and destroyed parts of certain houses there, but without causing any military damage.

"Between the Meuse and the Mo-

TRANSLATED THE BIBLE INTO NAVAJO TONGUE

VETERAN PRIEST CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Albuquerque, Dec. 31.—Father Anselm Weber, who translated the Bible into the Navajo tongue and who has been a prominent figure for years in Indian missionary work, celebrated the silver anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood at Gallup, December 29. Church dignitaries from three states were present. Father Weber has been stationed among the Navajos since 1898 and is the oldest surviving member of the missionary staff sent into the Navajo country at that time.

At the celebration were representatives of all the principal parishes in New Mexico and western Arizona and several from the east. The principal event of the celebration was mass of jubilation in the Church of the Sacred Heart, at which the Rev. Vincent Trost, a friend of Father Weber's younger days, delivered a eulogy.

"An entire French company was annihilated when we blew up their line near the Alger farm. South of Rheims strong French attacks north of Camp Chajens were everywhere repulsed.

"In the western Argonne region we gained considerable ground, capturing several trenches situated behind one another and taking 250 prisoners. French attempts to attack in the region of Pilre, north of Toul, failed.

"In upper Alsace, in the region to the west of Senneheim, all the French attacks broke down under the fire of our artillery.

"The enemy's artillery systematically destroyed house after house in the village of Steinbach (Alsace) which is in our possession. Our losses are slight.

"It is reported from the eastern

(Continued on Page Five)

ENGLAND REPLIES IN FRIENDLY SPIRIT

London, Dec. 31.—The official information bureau this afternoon gave out the following statement:

"An answer to the American note will be drawn up as soon as possible. It will be in the same friendly spirit in which the American note is written."

Speaking for the foreign office the press bureau this evening denied the suggestion published in the London Times that its previous statement at the time the American note was received by the foreign office was issued with the intention of charging the American government with discourtesy in giving the contents of the note to the newspapers before it had been received by the foreign office.

The foreign office says this suggestion is totally unfounded. Concerning the anonymous report:

"There has been no disclosure whatever on the part of the state department at Washington or the American embassy in London. On the other hand it must be clearly understood that when this note was sent to the foreign office there was no discourtesy or delay there, either on the part of the officials or of the secretary of state."

Emperor Sends Encouragement

Vienna, Dec. 31 (via Amsterdam and London).—Emperor Francis Joseph has issued a New Year's rescript addressed to the Austro-Hungarian army and navy which reads as follows:

"During five months of the departing year the monarchy has faced numerous and powerful enemies in a war which has been forced upon us and our faithful allies.

"The proven steadfastness of the fighting qualities and the heroic bravery of my army and navy gives me confidence that in the new year of the war Austro-Hungarian forces on land and sea will emerge with honor from the trials which, for the welfare of the fatherland, the war may impose upon their military qualities.

"In sorrowful gratitude I remember those who, on the blood-drenched battlefields, have sacrificed their lives for our justice. With the sincerest prayer that with God's help the new year may see them led to victory, I salute all my brave men."

Grey Hears Page

London, Dec. 31.—Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador, had an extended conversation this afternoon with Sir Edward Grey, the British secretary for foreign affairs, on the subject of President Wilson's note of protest against the detention of American shipping by British warships.

As the note had been discussed by the members of the British cabinet yesterday, the foreign secretary was able to present to the ambassador the combined views of himself and his colleagues.

No Bad Feelings

Washington, Dec. 31.—Thirty-one ships bearing 19,350 tons of American copper worth \$500,000 destined to neutral nations, have been detained and their cargoes seized as contraband

(Continued on Page Four)

BLANCO JAILED BY VILLA'S ORDER

MAN WHO KEPT ORDER IN MEXICO CITY MAY BE PUT TO DEATH

GUTIERREZ WOULD BE FAIR

PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT SAYS RIGHT OF TRIAL IS DUE EVERYBODY

MONTEREY IS STARVING

CONDITIONS THERE ARE AS BAD AS IN BELGIUM, CONSUL REPORTS

Washington, Dec. 31.—General Lacio Blanco, who remained in military command of Mexico City for some time after the withdrawal of the Carranza forces and pending the arrival of the Villa and Zapata forces, has been imprisoned by Villa, according to a dispatch today to the Carranza agency here from Vera Cruz. The message, dated yesterday, says:

"Advice from Mexico City received by the war department from secret service men say General Lacio Blanco has been made prisoner by Villa and that Blanco's staff officers have been scattered among Villa regiments against their will. The state of Vera Cruz today became denuded of rebel Villistas, and Zapatistas when General Sahvirran, operating under command of Villa, with 600 soldiers, rendered his force and himself to General Obregon in Juitipan, and offered his sword to the first chief.

Monterey Evacuated

Carranza forces evacuated Monterey on Tuesday, taking with them the archives, according to a dispatch today to the state department sent late last night from Laredo. Villa forces were reported advancing on Monterey from the south. Trains arriving at Laredo last night from Monterey were loaded with Mexican refugees. The dispatch adds that the railway between Tampico and Monterey has been cut and that trains have been fired upon.

A dispatch from Mexico City, dated yesterday, says the minister of public instruction has resigned and that the national convention will meet in Mexico City tomorrow.

General Gutierrez has issued a circular to his generals saying he is "resolved to afford guarantees to all inhabitants of the republic without distinction of classes, including enemies of the revolution who shall have all guarantees granted by law to culprits and delinquents, and with all energy against those who continue perturbing public tranquility, whatever be their military, pecuniary, or social position, by seizing, killing, kidnaping or assassinating defenseless persons."

The text of the circular was received today at the state department.

"If there is no form of trial, however summary," declared General Gutierrez. "If persons are despoiled or slain without any procedure, when we are reproached with being brigands, kidnapers and assassins, we shall be unable to repel the charge by pointing to written processes in each case. Our administrative conduct depends the recognition of our government by foreign powers. The most elementary principle of morality and justice demands that the right to punish belongs only to authority through tribunals subject strictly to public procedure marked by law, but never to private parties nor to chiefs of armed groups."

Monterey is Starving

Laredo, Texas, Dec. 31.—Food for less than ten days remains at Monterey, Mexico, and adjacent territory, where the situation in some respects is as bad as in Europe, according to unofficial reports today from American Consul General Phillip C. Hanna of Monterey.

INDEPENDENCE A SURE CAUSE OF TROUBLE

SO DECLARES WORCESTER OF PHILIPPINES TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

ANARCHY IS PREDICTED

THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY SEIZURE OF THE ISLANDS BY FOREIGN POWER

NATIVES DO NOT WANT IT

THEY DO NOT THINK FREEDOM JUST NOW IS FOR THEIR BEST INTERESTS

Washington, Dec. 31.—Private dispatches from Manila concerning the recent uprisings in the Philippine islands, which were unsuccessful in accomplishment, were laid today before the senate committee considering the Philippine independence bill by Dean C. Worcester, former secretary of the interior of the islands.

The dispatches came yesterday from Mr. Worcester's friend, H. G. McDonnell, a Manila editor, and for their accuracy Mr. Worcester vouched to the committee. The dispatches read:

"General commanding Corregidor denying the rumor regarding disarming of scouts. Mob in botanical gardens scattered by the police before the time set for uprising. Arming so beloved. Movements wide. Quite well organized. Hearings connected with them.

"Drastic measures required to prevent it from spreading. It is generally believed the disturbance is being influenced by widespread idea of government weakness. Sedition not suppressed because of a wrong interpretation of the promises of the administration set in circulation by politicians among the ignorant masses. Foreigners apprehensive. Great many have applied for firearms permits. Impossible to do anything to learn many facts. Witnesses are forbidden to give information. Government will not allow us to see documents issued by army. Uprising in sight. Have arrested men in Manila. Main leaders have not been apprehended.

"Communications secured indicating Americans were to be attacked, property to be confiscated or destroyed. There is no evidence that property-owning natives are involved. Absolutely no American connected with uprising.

(Signed) "H. G. McDONNELL." Mr. Worcester gave it as his opinion that the disturbances were what might be expected if independence was granted. He declared Philippine politicians, "who love to fish in troubled waters."

(Continued on page Four)

THE COMING WEEK

Washington, Dec. 31.—Senate: Met at 11 a. m.

The long delayed seaman's bill was ordered to conference to compose differences with the house.

The immigration bill was taken up for amendment and with prospect of final vote.

Dean C. Worcester, former Philippine commissioner, opposed the bill for independence before the Philippine commission.

The lands committee continued work on the water power site leasing bill.

House: Met at 11 a. m.

After an hour's filibuster to get a quorum the postal appropriation bill was taken up.

Foreign affairs committee continued hearings on resolution to prohibit exports of war materials, and Representative Towner introduced another resolution for that purpose.

(Continued on page Four)

A TOMORROW THE BEGINNING OF NEW YEAR

LAS VEGAS WILL BEGIN TONIGHT A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR CELEBRATION

MANY BIG SOCIETY EVENTS

CHIEF AMONG THESE ARE FIREMEN'S BALL AND CAS. TANEDA PARTY

BASKETBALL IN THE ARMORY

THE Y. M. C. A. WILL PLAY AGAINST THE NEWTON APRENTICE TEAM

Tomorrow is New Year's day and Las Vegas will celebrate the end of 1914 and the beginning of 1915 as a day of carnival and merriment. Merchants will take a day off in honor of the occasion, some of the churches will hold religious services to commemorate the day and several big social and athletic events will lend a real holiday aspect to the occasion.

Everybody in town will make plenty of New Year's resolutions and will have a busy time throughout January in seeing how quickly he can break them. The kids will be happy all morning in anticipation of the big feed that is coming at noon. Every one will be both glad and sorry to see the end of another year.

The townfolk will be pleased to think that the year that has passed has brought naught but prosperity to Las Vegas. So all will "let loose" and have a good time tonight and tomorrow.

Celebration Begins Tonight

The celebration of the holiday will commence in earnest tonight, when the really big social affairs are scheduled to occur. This, in fact, will be the biggest part of the carnival.

One of the main events of the evening will be the annual banquet and dance at the Hotel Castañeda. This affair always has made a great hit with local society and no doubt will sustain its good reputation this year. About 140 persons have signified their intention of being present, giving promise that the event will be the largest of any held by the local Harvey house. Fine music has been arranged for, an orchestra having been engaged to come here from Albuquerque.

The banquet will be up to the high standard set in former years. The committee has worked hard to assure everyone in attendance a good time.

The other big event of the evening will be the thirty-fourth annual ball of the East Las Vegas fire department. This affair, which always has proved a great drawing card for Las Vegas society folk, will be held, as usual, at the Duncan opera house. The hall has been beautifully decorated by the fire fighters. The floor has been put in excellent shape, and tangoes and the dancers of the good old waltz and two-step will be happy. Good music will be furnished by an orchestra. The program has been arranged so as to give satisfaction to all. A large number of people will attend on masquerade and several will go solely to watch the carnival. For the masqueraders there will be several beautiful prizes which have been displayed for the past few days in the window of the Palace clothing store. The merchants have contributed liberally, giving assurance that the awards granted will be the best ever. The fire company has done exceedingly efficient work during the year in fighting flames, and it is going to keep up its good record as a host by providing the best ball in the history of the department.

A Watch Meeting

Commencing at 8 o'clock this evening

(Continued on page Four)