

VOL. I—NO. 89

PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1914.

Copyright, 1914, by THE PUBLIC Ledger COMPANY.

PRICE ONE CENT

CITY PAID OUT \$24,408,000 FOR XMAS PRESENTS

Talk of "Hard Times" Routed by Estimate of Sum Spent in Marking Holiday This Year.

Useful Gifts Prevailed, Beauty Being Sacrificed for Utility, According to Elated Shopkeepers—All Stores Shared in Profit.

Table with 2 columns: Category, Amount. Includes Department stores, Hardware, Jewelers, etc.

The citizens of Philadelphia put \$24,408,000 into their pockets and went forth to do their Christmas shopping.

More than \$24,000,000. And this, of course, does not include the great sums spent in foodstuffs nor for the Christmas liquid which cheers and also lubricates.

THE WEATHER FAIR

This cold gets to the ears, doesn't it? And there is no reason why anybody should be ashamed of the reddish tint of a nose either.

FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity—Fair and continued cold.

Table with 2 columns: Parameter, Value. Includes Barometer, Temperature, Wind, etc.

Almanac of the Day. Lamps to be Lighted. The Tides. PORT RICHMOND.

Skating Today. There is skating on Quaker, Centenary and Hunting Park Lakes.

BIG FIRE IN CHELSEA, MASS.

Whole Lower Section of the City is Threatened. CHELSEA, Mass., Dec. 26.—The whole lower section of the city is threatened today by a fierce fire which started in the building of the Pope & Cottle Lumber Company, 140 Carter street.

CRAZED BY HORSE'S KICK

Victim Makes His Second Attempt at Suicide. Temporary insanity, caused by a kick from a horse four years ago, caused Budd Peters, 233 Marston street, to attempt to end his life this morning in the kitchen of his home, according to relatives. The man is dying in the Women's Homeopathic Hospital.

CHRISTMAS FIRES FEWEST IN ANNALS OF DEPARTMENT

Only Nine Small Blazes Reported in City Yesterday. Christmas Day, 1914, will go down in the fire department annals as the most safe, sane and sensible to date.

WOMAN DIES WITH ONLY PET DOG AS COMPANION

Barking of Half-starved Animal Gives Mournful Signal to Police. In a beautifully furnished and immaculately clean house at 2940 Latimer street lived Miss Mary Dougherty.

ANNUAL TIPS FALL OFF

Usual Gratitudes This Year Far Below Average. Christmas tips to hotel employees, elevator men, errand boys, ash men and others who profit by the Christmas spirit of giving showed a marked falling off this year, and today members of the professions named are peevish.

U. S. AS SANTA CLAUS

100,000,000 Parcel Post Packages Delivered During Christmas Season. WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Santa Claus delivered 100,000,000 packages by parcel post during the Christmas season.

Boarder Accused of Shooting Couple

John Chabbe, a Negro, and his wife, Stollia, are in the Police Hospital to-day with right arms in slings, and John Johnson, who boarded with them at 1224 Olive street, is charged with shooting them.

General du Pont Hated Easily

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 26.—According to a telegram received last night, General du Pont was killed in a shooting accident in the morning.

ROUGH ON HORSES, BUT FINE FOR THE CHILDREN



SCHUYLKILL FROZEN, THERMOMETER AT 9, ON COLDEST DEC. 26

Ear Muffs Comfortable After Arrival of Severe Cold, Which May Remain Several Days.

Hourly Temperatures table with columns for time and temperature.

Today is the coldest day of the winter so far and the coldest December 26 in the records of the local Weather Bureau.

The cold was reached here in full force early this morning from the lake regions. A storm moving northward from South Carolina contributed its share to the temperature.

The intense cold served to thicken the ice on ponds and lakes around Philadelphia. The Schuylkill River is frozen over.

John Hickey, 53 years old, 522 South street, was removed almost frozen from the rear of 312 South street. He was taken to the Polytechnic Hospital where responding to extreme measures of resuscitation, it is expected he will recover.

John Burley, of Phoenixville, sprained an elbow when he slipped on the ice at 21st and Dauphin streets. He was taken to the Women's Homeopathic Hospital.

John McDonald, of 225 Fairmount avenue, fell in front of his home and was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital suffering from a strained left wrist.

Record Cold in Pittsburgh. PITTSBURGH, Dec. 26.—All cold records were broken in northwestern Pennsylvania today when the mercury dropped from 34 to degrees below zero.

Four Persons in Baltimore Suffer. BALTIMORE, Dec. 26.—Baltimore is having its coldest weather of the season today. At 9 a. m. the thermometer registered 2 degrees above zero.

"Coldest Day" in New York. NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—New Yorkers awoke today to face the coldest day of the winter. From 4 degrees above zero at midnight the mercury dropped to 4 degrees below at 7 a. m.



Today arrived with the coldest weather of the year, imparting a hard glaze to the top of the Christmas snow which proved particularly disconcerting to horses and teams.

VILLISTAS DRIVE DEFENDERS BACK NEAR VERA CRUZ

State Department Learns Decisive Battle is in Progress Ten Miles From City and Beyond Tampico.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—The real battle for control of Vera Cruz is believed here today to be in progress. Late advice to the State Department says that fighting between Carranistas and Villistas forces was in progress 10 miles west of Vera Cruz.

There is also severe fighting reported in the State of Tlaxcala and at Elbanua near Tampico. This series of conflicts, it is believed here, will eventually end in success for the convention forces.

John McDonald, of 225 Fairmount avenue, fell in front of his home and was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital suffering from a strained left wrist.

Record Cold in Pittsburgh. PITTSBURGH, Dec. 26.—All cold records were broken in northwestern Pennsylvania today when the mercury dropped from 34 to degrees below zero.

Four Persons in Baltimore Suffer. BALTIMORE, Dec. 26.—Baltimore is having its coldest weather of the season today. At 9 a. m. the thermometer registered 2 degrees above zero.

"Coldest Day" in New York. NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—New Yorkers awoke today to face the coldest day of the winter. From 4 degrees above zero at midnight the mercury dropped to 4 degrees below at 7 a. m.

PEACE FOR AN HOUR AS SOLDIERS PRAY ON BATTLEFIELDS

Conflict in West Halted for Brief Period of Christmas Supplication, Then Battle Resumes.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—For one hour on Christmas Day the warriors of the nations locked in deadly conflict in western Europe ceased to fight.

After the short truce had ended, however, the mighty combat in the history of the world was resumed. Frenchman, Briton, Belgian and German, all alike put away the visions of home that the day had called forth and took up again the task at hand, the slaughtering of his fellowman.

London paid tribute to the man in khaki yesterday and the who nation celebrated what will long be remembered as a Military Christmas.

London particularly was full of soldiers. Conspicuous among them were several thousand Canadians from Salisbury Plain.

All ranks of the troops at the front and in the home camps were loaded down with presents. Princess Mary's fund for Christmas gifts amounted to nearly \$600,000, while there were numerous funds for tobacco, puddings and other luxuries raised by newspapers and societies.

The Newcastle is a protected cruiser of the second class, with two 4-inch guns in its main battery. She also has 12 smaller guns.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRENCH

There was a light cannonade on the front between the sea and the Lya, where a heavy fog obscured operations.

Between the Oise and Aisne we report that during the day of December 24 a very severe German attack was repulsed at Chivry, northeast of Soignies.

In the Argonne and between the Meuse and Moselle there is nothing to report. In upper Alsace the day was marked by appreciable progress before Cerenay.

There has been no change on the left bank of the Vistula or in Galicia. The Germans delivered attacks on the day and night of December 24, principally in the districts of Sochaczew and Bolimow, but all were repulsed with great loss to the enemy.

TURKISH. Between Otlari and Id our troops gained a decisive victory. The battle is being continued with great success. We have captured 6000 prisoners, including a colonel and a large quantity of ammunition and war material.

AUSTRIAN. Fighting continued yesterday along a greater part of our front. Our forces beat back attacks of the enemy near Magyag, in the Latorceza region, with heavy losses.

GERMAN AIR RAIDER REPORTED KILLED IN SHEERNESS ATTACK

Wrecked Aeroplane Sighted Following Daring Flight Near London—British Gunners Hit Mark.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The German aviator who tried to attack the British naval base at Sheerness yesterday is believed to have perished.

That all the German air raids over England have occurred in the daylight is the comment by the London papers this morning. At least three times have aeroplanes appeared over Sheerness in the mouth of the Thames, 30 miles from London.

Ostend, it is believed, is the base from which the German flyers operate. Yesterday the airman who flew over Sheerness from the direction of Dover, had undoubtedly passed over that city at such a height that he was not seen, although the populace and garrisons there have been made watchful by the two former attacks by air.

The German showed great daring in his attempts to ram the three British planes which rose to give him battle. The anti-aircraft guns could not be used against him for fear of hitting the Britons.

The prompt action of the British aviators in going to the attack prevented the dropping of any bombs by the enemy, who had hardly been sighted before he turned and began his flight.

A dispatch over Harwick is feared. Yesterday the Mayor of that city issued the following notice: "Although an attack by the enemy on Harwick is not anticipated at the present time, and there is no special reason for anxiety among non-combatants, it is considered desirable to notify the citizens of Harwick of the existence of a special committee of local emergency committees and special constables will direct every one as to the course to be pursued. All members of the civil population are hereby required to act strictly in accordance with such directions. All persons arriving at Harwick will be required to register."

A hostile aeroplane was sighted to-day at five minutes to 11 o'clock. It was flying very high from east to west over Sheerness.

British aircraft went up in pursuit and engaged the enemy, who, after being hit three or four times, was driven off seaward.

MRS. JOHN C. BELL BETTER Recovering From Effects of Surgical Operation. Mrs. John C. Bell, wife of the Attorney General of Pennsylvania, is recovering from the effects of a serious operation which she underwent recently in the University Hospital.

CZAR BREAKS GERMAN LINE; GAINS GROUND IN POLAND

Six Miles Gained by Drive Through Christmas Day Blizzard—Foe Beaten Back From Rawa Hills and Forced From Positions Along Rawka River.

Spirited Surprise Assault Pushes Kaiser's Front 45 Miles From Warsaw at One Point—Victory Gives Russians Control of Situation, Dominating Zone Between Bzura and Pilica Rivers.

The Kaiser's line in Poland has been broken at one point. By a spirited surprise attack through a Christmas Day blizzard a Russian column drove the foe out of its Rawka River positions and dislodged him from the heights of Rawa, which dominate the territory between the Pilica and Bzura Rivers.

Christians brought no cessation of hostilities in the Carpathians, where Vienna reports, the Austrians are beating back heavy Russian forces to Lisko.

The French also claim marked progress in the advance near Anspach, in Upper Alsace, but the official communiqué is silent as to the offensive against Metz, and the reports that the outer forts of that German stronghold are being bombarded still lack confirmation.

Heavy fogs prevented infantry movements in West Flanders and the fighting in that region has been largely an artillery duel.

An official statement issued in Berlin says that an attack by French troops was repulsed by the Germans near Festubert, the Germans capturing 19 officers, 819 men and 14 machine guns. The Allies left 3000 dead on the field.

The German aviator who yesterday made a daring flight over Sheerness, 30 miles from London, is reported to have perished.

GERMAN FLEET TO GIVE BATTLE, DANES REPORT Large Squadron Sails Across North Sea Toward British Coast.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 26.—A German squadron of considerable size is reported to have sailed out into the North Sea early today, proceeding toward the coast of England to give battle to the British fleet.

THIEF TRAPPED BEHIND PIANO Couldn't Escape When Family Returned Unexpectedly. The unexpected return of Mrs. Della Tolback, 323 East Leister street, and her family from making Christmas calls, late last night, resulted in the arrest of Joseph Jewick, who was busy robbing the house in their absence.

THIEF TRAPPED BEHIND PIANO Couldn't Escape When Family Returned Unexpectedly. The unexpected return of Mrs. Della Tolback, 323 East Leister street, and her family from making Christmas calls, late last night, resulted in the arrest of Joseph Jewick, who was busy robbing the house in their absence.

VALPARAISO, Dec. 26.—A wireless message from the Chilean torpedo gunboat Tuna reports the British cruiser Newcastle commanding 12 miles from Valparaiso. It is supposed she has engaged the German cruiser Dresden and converted cruiser Princesse Elisabeth.

FIGHT OFF CHILI REPORTED Believed Dresden Has Been Engaged by British. VALPARAISO, Dec. 26.—A wireless message from the Chilean torpedo gunboat Tuna reports the British cruiser Newcastle commanding 12 miles from Valparaiso.

RYAN READY NOT GOING TO RESIGN WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Secretary of War Bryan today again denied a rumor that he intended to resign from the cabinet.

BRYAN READY NOT GOING TO RESIGN WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Secretary of War Bryan today again denied a rumor that he intended to resign from the cabinet.