
INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

MAKING POLICE RESPECT THE LAW

Philadelphia, Dec. 31, 1914.

For the encouragement of readers of *The Public* who may be disposed to "go and do likewise," please give me space for a little history. The policemen of Philadelphia have been annoyed lately by their inability to arrest safe-breakers. On the night of Dec. 8th, a Lieutenant and a squad descended on the tenderloin, raided three restaurants, told the occupants that they were "wanted," took 29 victims to a station house, and in the morning carted them to City Hall, photographed them, took a full description and impressions of their finger tips, back to the station house for a hearing on the charge of "suspicious characters," an offense unknown to the law, and then turned them loose, there being no evidence to warrant detention. I wrote a letter to the "Philadelphia Record," denouncing the lawlessness of the guardians of the law, and offering to pay the expenses of any of the victims who would sue the Lieutenant for false arrest; one of them applied to me, and although he was too timid to fight the police, having his humble living to make in a restaurant, I accompanied him to City Hall where we demanded the destruction of the records, the negative, and an assurance from the solicitor of the department that no duplicates would be kept. After two weeks' delay and three visits, the offensive material was destroyed in our presence. I have served notice on the Director of Public Safety and on the Lieutenant that a repetition of the offense would be brought to the attention of Councils, the General Assembly and the Governor. I am inclined to think that the department will "go slow" hereafter.

SAMUEL MILLIKEN.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, January 5, 1915.

The European War.

The close of the fifth month of the war in Europe has brought no decisive action, and no talk of peace. The endurance struggle continues, with fortune apparently favoring the Allies. Germany has been unable to take Warsaw, or advance against the Allies in France and Belgium, her commerce and shipping have been driven from the seas, and her fleets cling to their harbors. Austria has been driven from Serbia, and is slowly yielding to the Russian forces in Galicia. Turkey has made no effective campaign, but still holds the Dardanelles. And Egypt apparently is quiet. Germany, however, though herself unable to advance, holds

her opponents in check. [See current volume, page 14.]



The Campaign in the East.

The Germans still cling to their plan to take Warsaw, but have been unable, notwithstanding heroic sacrifices, to cross the Bzura River, behind which the Russians occupy entrenched positions. Little changes have occurred in East Prussia, where the Russians maintain their hold. But in the south they are pushing their way into Hungary through the Carpathians, and are again advancing upon Cracow. No Austrian activities against Serbia are mentioned. Rumors of riots and panic come from Hungary, but nothing definite is known outside the country. It is reported that the Germans are sending re-enforcements into Austria. The Germans maintain their aggressive campaign in central Poland with their faces toward Warsaw. Operations over much of this territory are assuming the conditions of the campaign in the West, where it has taken on the nature of a siege. It is reported that colder weather will aid the Germans by enabling them to move over the rivers and the swampy ground.



The Campaign in the West.

Taking advantage of the supposed depletion of the German forces in the West in order to cope with the Russians in the East, the Allies have continued an aggressive campaign at several points. Little change has occurred along the Oise and Meuse Rivers, where the activities have been mainly confined to artillery duels, but in Belgium the Allies have advanced to St. Georges, a few miles northeast of Nieupoort. In upper Alsace the French have taken Steinbach and the heights west of Sennheim, where desperate fighting between the French and Germans has occurred. Elsewhere along the extended line few changes have occurred. Considerable attention has been given to undermining and blowing up trenches, but with small results.



On the Sea and in the Air.

The chief event on the sea was the loss of the battleship *Formidable* in the English Channel, off Portsmouth, on the 1st, either from mine or torpedo. Of the crew of 750 all but 201 were lost, including the captain and thirty-four other officers. The German auxiliary cruiser *Kronprinz Wilhelm* landed at Las Palmas, Canary Islands, on the 5th a hundred sailors from four French and English ships that she had sunk since September 17th. Aeroplane operations are assuming greater importance, and bid fair to become one of the chief factors of the war. Four German aeroplanes flew over Dunkirk on the 30th, dropping bombs that killed fifteen and wounded thirty-four. French airmen dropped bombs upon Metz, but