

SERIOUS FIGHTING IN EAST WAR ZONE

BOTH RUSSIAN AND AUSTRO-GERMAN ARMIES HAVE ASSUMED OFFENSIVE.

QUIET REIGNS IN THE WEST

Campaign in the Carpathians Vital to Both Sides. Russians Are Attacking Austro-German Forces.

London.—With the armies in France and Flanders recuperating after strenuous fighting of earlier days of the week and no local actions being recorded, interest in the war situation has been transferred to the Russian offensive in East Prussia and the attempt of a strong Austro-German army to dislodge the troops of Emperor Nicholas from their positions in the Carpathians.

In East Prussia a Russian offensive has developed in the extreme north, where renewed fighting seems to confirm a belief that a definite effort to advance north of the Mazurian Lakes district, where previously the Russians were defeated has been decided on by the Russian General Staff.

More vital to both sides, however, is the campaign in the Carpathians, where southwest of Dukla Pass the Russians have delivered an energetic attack. According to their account of the combat they compelled the Austro-Germans to retreat, leaving behind ammunition and stores. This attack, according to military observers, indicates a Russian attempt to turn the flank of the Teuton Allies. If it would have serious consequences for the large Austro-German army in and about the Carpathian Passes.

Russian military experts anticipated that the Austrians will deliver their main attack with their extreme right in Western Bukovina, aiming to achieve a signal victory and thus give Roumania cause to pause. The only thing holding Roumania in check at present it is said is uncertainty as to what Bulgaria will do. Bulgaria it is asserted still demands that part of Macedonia now under Serbian rule as the price of her neutrality and Serbia is reported unwilling to make this concession.

CARRANZA TAKES MEXICO CITY.

General Obregon Head of the Carranza Forces Now in Capital.

Mexico City.—The capital is again in possession of the forces of General Carranza who, while acting as provisional president was forced to leave Mexico City, early in November under threat of Villa and Zapata's advancing troops. The new authorities have re-established order and a general feeling of confidence prevails.

It has been determined that the shooting which occurred before the national palace, when Gen. Alvaro Obregon at the head of the Carranza forces, reached that place was done by snipers who were hidden on the cathedral roof. Gen. Obregon said the shots were undoubtedly directed towards him. The perpetrators have not been captured. Three soldiers were killed and a number wounded during the fighting.

All saloons are closed. Commercial houses and banks declare they will resume business immediately.

20,000 additional Carranza troops entered the capital. The Zapata troops have retreated southward.

French Official Statement. Paris.—It is comparative quiet along the battle line in France, judging from the official announcement by the French war office. There were artillery engagements, some of them fairly violent at different places and one or two infantry encounters are mentioned. Apparently long sections of the line showed no activity whatever.

District "Jim Crow" Bill. Washington.—A bill by Representative Clark of Florida requiring District of Columbia transportation companies to provide separate accommodations for white and negro races, was favorably reported to the house by the district committee.

Consider Naval Appropriation. Washington.—The House met to begin consideration of the naval appropriation bill carrying about \$148,000,000. Indications were that the measure would provoke lively debate. The agricultural appropriation bill, carrying more than \$22,000,000 was passed in the House and sent to the Senate. Only two of the appropriation bills the urgent deficiency and the District of Columbia—have passed the Senate. All of the big supply bills except the naval, the sundry civil, pensions, have passed the house.

Effect Has Been Good. New York.—Rockefeller donations to educational institutions, have influenced policies of presidents of universities and colleges in many instances, but the influence has always been good, said Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard, at the Industrial Commission's inquiry. Donations, Dr. Eliot said, to which he referred, were made by the general board. He cited John D. Rockefeller's offer in 1905 to furnish one million dollars to Harvard if the university would raise \$875,000 additional.

Surgeons Work in Flames. Walla Walla, Wash.—When St. Mary's hospital burned citizens hurried to the scene with automobiles and 150 patients were rescued. David Broughton was on the operating table, and with the flames raging in the wooden structure, surgeons finished the operation before transferring the patient to another hospital. The mercury was within a few degrees of zero and many of the patients became badly chilled before quarters could be found for them. Damage to the building amounts to \$100,000.



GENERAL VON MACKENSEN
Gen. von Mackensen is one of the Kaiser's best commanders in the eastern theater of war.

HOLDING NIGHT SESSIONS

EFFORT WILL BE MADE BY THE DEMOCRATS TO TIRE OUT OPPOSITION.

Commerce Committee Substitutes Caucus Bill for Original Bill. Democrats Aroused.

Washington.—Administration leaders in the senate, asserting that the Republicans were conducting a filibuster against the government ship-purchase bill, determined to wear out the opposition in long night sessions. One had been planned but it was abandoned as a courtesy to Senator Gallinger, the minority leader, who had spoken for several hours and had not concluded his remarks.

After an executive session the senate resumed open session late in the day when the night meeting pronouncement was delivered by Majority Leader Kern.

"It is fair to minority senators," said Senator Kern, "to state that the majority proposes to meet what we believe to be a filibuster against this bill by holding night session."

Senator Gallinger declared that he was ready to proceed but the majority insisted, upon allowing him to rest and the senate recessed.

Democratic senators were aroused when after the way had been opened for business for the first time in ten days, Republicans began reading the long journal of proceedings as well as speeches on various subjects, submitting them for introduction in the Congressional Record.

The commerce committee voted to report as a substitute for the original bill as amended by the Democratic caucus. It rejected Senator Lodge's amendment to prohibit government purchase of ships owned by belligerents. It will soon consider an amendment by Senator Jones to provide that the government purchase no ships at all but either construct or charter them. Democrats will not receive this amendment favorably.

WILL NOT SEIZE FOOD STUFFS.

Germany Promises United States Not to Detain Cargoes.

Washington.—Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, notified the State Department that Germany had given official assurance that the Government would seize no foodstuffs shipped from the United States to Germany. The Ambassador's notification was given verbally, but it was understood he later will send a formal note on the subject.

Officials surmised that the Embassy might have been instructed to make this communication as an explanation that exports from America would not be affected by the announced purpose of the German Government to seize food supplies as reported in Berlin news dispatches. No word had come, however, either to the Embassy or the State Department, concerning this announcement.

The department cabled Ambassador Gerard at Berlin for information concerning Germany's intention to appropriate wheat, corn and flour.

British Are Successful. London.—Both British and French official reports assert that all these attacks failed and that the Germans suffered heavy losses. The Germans admit their attack on the British north of the canal was unsuccessful, but say that on the south side of the waterway their efforts brought complete success and that the British attempt to re-capture these trenches was repulsed, with heavy losses. These attacks followed a heavy British bombardment of German positions beyond La Bassée.

U. S. Steel Suspends Dividends. New York.—The United States Steel Corporation suspended the dividend of 1-2 of 1 per cent on the common stock for the last three months of 1914. Chairman E. H. Gary issued this statement: "The earnings for the quarter of 1914 were so small that the board of directors after careful consideration reluctantly decided to suspend for the present the payment of dividends on the common stock. Business conditions are slowly improving and it is hoped that resumption may not be long deferred."

Confer With Rockefeller. New York.—John D. Rockefeller, Jr., conferred with representatives of the Colorado mine workers for two and a half hours in the offices of the president of the Rockefeller Foundation at No. 26 Broadway. The condition of the employes of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Co., of which Mr. Rockefeller is a director, was discussed. Neither Mr. Rockefeller nor the miners officials would discuss the conference in detail. Mr. Rockefeller said there had been an exchange of views.

PRESIDENT VEToes IMMIGRATION BILL

THE LITERACY TEST FOREIGN TO THE AMERICAN IDEA, MR. WILSON THINKS.

SENATE FAVORS THE BILL

Effort Will Be Made to Pass the Bill Over President's Veto, But Many Believe Cannot Be Done.

Washington.—President Wilson vetoed the immigration bill because of the literacy test for admission of aliens. His message was referred to the house immigration committee, whose chairman, Representative Burnett, will move that the measure be passed over the veto.

Much informal discussion among members of the house followed receipt of the veto and there were many who believed the two-thirds majority required to pass the bill could not be procured. Immigration bills containing literacy tests were vetoed by President Cleveland and President Taft, but both failed of repassage.

Senate leaders insist there would be no trouble in repassing the bill in the upper house. That was done in the Taft administration but the lower house failed to muster a two-thirds majority.

In his veto message President Wilson told the house which originated the bill, that he had no pride of opinion on the question and that he was not foolish enough to profess to know the wishes and ideals of America better than the body of her chosen Representatives know them. He asked, however, whether the bill rested upon the conscious and universal assent and desire of the American people and pointed out that no political party ever had avowed a policy of restriction in this fundamental matter gone to the country on it and been commissioned to control its legislation.

SMALL BATTLES EVERYWHERE.

French Claim Germans Have Lost 20,000 Men.

London.—Although no big battles, as battles go in this war, have been fought of late, there have been engagements in all the arenas from Asiatic Turkey to the English Channel in which the losses in men and material probably have been greater in the aggregate than in many of the battles of history. According to French reports, German attacks against the allied lines in Flanders, France and Alsace on the first three days of the week cost them 20,000 men, to which must be added the losses suffered in repeated attacks on the Russian entrenchments in Central Poland.

All attacks in the West, the Allies' announcements say, failed except near Craonne, where it admitted the French lost 800 men, largely because of the collapse of an old quarry.

The Germans on the other hand, assert that they inflicted a severe defeat on the French at Craonne and that they repulsed all French attacks in the Vosges and upper Alsace, with heavy losses.

Senator Walsh Replies. Washington.—Senate Democrats returned the fire of Republicans who for two weeks have been assailing the Government ship purchase bill. Senator Walsh, in an elaborate argument, replying to Senator Root's prediction that international difficulties would result from the measure, quoted prize court decisions, State Department records and legal authorities of many nations to show that the bills proposals were within international rights.

German Battleship Sunk. British Fleet Scores Another Victory in North Sea.

London.—An attempt by a German cruiser squadron to repeat the recent attack on Scarborough, the Hartlepool and other British coast towns, was frustrated by the British patrolling squadron, and in a running fight the German armored cruiser Blucher was sunk and two German battle cruisers seriously damaged.

The British ships suffered only slight injury. So far as is known only 123 of the Blucher's crew of 855 were saved.

A battle also occurred between the light cruisers and destroyers accompanying the bigger ships, but the result of that engagement has not yet reached the admiralty.

The British were superior in ships engaged, weight of armament and speed and the fight of the German ships into the mine and submarine infested field possibly saved them from further losses.

Battleships May Not Be Able to Pass. Washington.—Colonel Gosthals, Governor of the Canal Zone, reported to President Wilson that hard work on the slides at Gold Hill and Cucaracha gave no promise of a guarantee that battleships could pass through the waterway for the opening ceremonies in March. The presidential party may be taken around the slides by train.

Cargo Certified. Wilmington.—With her hatches sealed and cargo certified by the collector of customs the American steamer City of Columbus, Captain Johnson received her clearance papers and sailed for Rotterdam with a cargo of 10,000 bales of cotton for trans-shipment for Germany. The ship has been under constant observation of a custom official since her arrival for the purpose of certification. The City of Columbus is the third from this port this season with cotton for Germany through Rotterdam.

Root Fears Ship Bill. Washington.—Grave fear that the pending government ship-purchase bill, if carried into effect, would involve the United States in serious international controversies was expressed in the senate by Senator Root of New York. Addressing himself largely to the least aspects of the measure and what the administration plans to do under it the senator also charged the Democrats with attempting to rush the bill through by "brute force and weight of votes" and warned his colleagues against the danger.



PRINCESS ELIZABETH
The fortunes of Roumania and Bulgaria will be more closely cemented before long by the marriage of Princess Elizabeth of Roumania and Crown Prince Boris of Bulgaria.

TAKE CENSUS OF JOBLESS

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORS BELIEVE CONDITIONS OF UNEMPLOYMENT EXAGGERATED.

Secretary of Labor Intrusted With Duty of Making Inquiry into Present Conditions.

Washington.—The Wilson Administration has decided to get at the bottom of the statements that there is a widespread condition of unemployment in the country. Some of the President's advisers contend that the situation is not as represented, and they believe that something should be done to counteract what they regard as a false impression that has been created largely, in their opinion, for political purposes. The representations made to the President in this connection have had their effect, and it has been determined to make an investigation to ascertain the facts.

To the Secretary of Labor has been intrusted the duty of conducting the inquiry, and he has decided to begin work in New York City, where conditions of unemployment are represented to be worse than at any time in the Nation's history. The Secretary of Labor will ask the New York authorities to instruct the police, in conjunction with the work of taking the city census this year, to ascertain the number of persons unemployed in New York City.

If such an arrangement cannot be made, the Department of Labor will send an additional force of agents to New York to do the work as well as they can. These agents will endeavor to check up on the figures furnished by the police, and in that way seek to determine the situation as accurately as possible, in the absence of an adequate force of Government enumerators.

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James H. Parker Dead. New York.—James Parker, president of the Mutual Alliance Trust Company and prominent among business men in the city, died after an illness of several weeks from blood-poisoning. A slight cut, caused by broken glass in a swinging door, was responsible. Born in Johnston county, North Carolina, 72 years ago, Mr. Parker served throughout the Civil War as a lieutenant of cavalry. During his residence here he had been president of the New York Cotton Exchange and prominent in other business.

Thaw Pleads "Not Guilty." New York.—Harry K. Thaw pleaded not guilty to the charge of conspiracy under New Hampshire. His trial was set for February 23. Meanwhile he is to remain a prisoner in the Tombs his counsel having agreed not to apply for bail. No attempt will be made by the state to have Thaw committed to the Matthew asylum, pending his trial, unless his lawyers change their decision not to apply for bail. Deputy Attorney General Franklin Kennedy is in charge of the state's case.

Taft Favors One Term. Charlottesville, Va.—Former President William H. Taft in an address delivered at the University of Virginia emphasized his belief in the one-term idea as applied to the office of President of the United States. "I am strongly inclined to the view," he said, "that it would have been a wiser provision, as it was at one time voted in the convention to make the term of the President seven years and render him ineligible thereafter. Such a change would give to the executive greater

GARZA AND TROOPS FLEE CAPITAL CITY

WILL ESTABLISH NEW SEAT OF GOVERNMENT AT CUERNAVACA NEAR BY.

CARRANZA TROOPS ARE NEAR

Commanded By General Alvarado the Carranza Forces Are Expected to Enter Mexico City Soon.

Mexico City.—The Provisional President Garza and his Government left the Capital for Cuernavaca where a new seat of Government will be established.

The last contingents of the army of evacuation have passed out and the army of occupation lingers on the outskirts of the city, but is expected to enter soon.

All the commercial houses and banks and even private dwellings are barred and shuttered, although no disorder has attended the fleeing of the Zapata and Villa forces.

The National Palace, the Federal telegraph and postoffices and other Government establishments are closed. The incoming Carranza forces are commanded by General Alvarado, former post commander here.

Food prices have soared beyond the reach of the needy. The supply of food is low and unless the railway line to Vera Cruz is opened soon it is believed there will be much suffering. The Government's decision to quit the Capital came after a heated discussion at the session of the convention. It was decided President Garza, his Government and members of the convention should proceed after midnight to Cuernavaca. Colonel Garza and Gen. Ernesto Santocoy are reported to have departed on a special locomotive.

The deputies who have not left already will be forced to proceed from the city in automobiles as there is no fuel for the locomotives.

Zapata's troops are entraining in 30 electric trains in Xovhilmico and Morelos.

There is a rumor in circulation that the vanguard of General Obregon's troops is four miles from the Capital, advancing.

In a secret session of the convention some of the deputies demanded that General Zapata be called upon personally to take command of his troops and fight the forces of Carranza. However, it was decided afterwards that the Capital be abandoned and the municipal council left in charge. Previously the convention voted to dismiss General Palfox, Minister of Agriculture, because of his alleged incapacity in directing operations.

TURK INVASION OF EGYPT. First Skirmish of the War in Suez Canal Region Occurs.

London.—The advance guard of the Turkish army undertaking an invasion of Egypt has reached the British in this region took place. Official reports say the clash was a small affair, only one British officer being wounded, but dispatches from Cairo declare the invaders suffered severely from the British machine guns.

The dispatches do not disclose the size of the Turkish force engaged, but say the fight took place east of El Kantara which is on the Suez Canal and is the terminus of the caravan route from Rafat, the border station between Egypt and Syria. The distance from Rafat to El Kantara is 143 miles and, as the British had filled in all the wells along the caravan route, the invaders would have had to carry their own water. Even El Kantara is supplied by a pipe line from a fresh water stream which runs under the Suez canal.

No Records of Blease's Administration. Columbia, S. C.—Governor Manning in a special message to the senate asked that the general assembly appoint a committee to examine into the fact that there were no records of the previous administration. All of these records are said to have been removed. The message was referred to the judiciary committee for action.

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SPENT IN NORTH CAROLINA

Tar Heels Got \$45,672.80 From the Federal Department of Agriculture Last Year.

Washington.—The statement of expenditures of the Department of Agriculture for 1914 is just out. It carries the following items for North Carolina:

For soil surveys: Bladen county, \$2,938.57; Forsyth county, \$1,386.66; Randolph county, \$1,063.15; Rowan county, \$280.30; Union county, \$469.94; Wake county, \$1,059.25; on account of state soil agent \$1,493.06. Total \$8,688.93.

Wake county was surveyed in part during fiscal year 1913. Randolph, Rowan and Union counties will be completed during the fiscal year 1915. Money expended under the Weeks law for property in the Appalachian forests include: Mount Mitchell lands \$4,118.58; Mantahala, \$3,739.84; Savannah, \$2,768.73. The total expenditures under this law during the year amounted to \$52,115.24. The sale of timber from Appalachian resources totaled \$3,793.56.

For the keeping of Weather Bureau these sums were expended: Asheville, \$3,503.31; Charlotte, \$3,368.41; Hatteras, \$2,174.33; Raleigh, \$11,255.07; Wilmington, \$4,055.40.

The total expenditures of the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, were \$30,312,947.16, of which amount \$20,030,526.32 was paid and \$328,420.84 outstanding August 31, 1914.

1,000 Members Home-Made Meat Club. West Raleigh.—One thousand members have enrolled as members of the Home-Made Meat Club, an organization which has as its purpose the organization and instruction of clubs for the promotion of the raising of more meat in the bounds of North Carolina.

The animal husbandry department of the Experiment Station is conducting the clubs. The fact that the organization is only a year old and has at present enrolled 1,000 members is evidence that the efforts of the promoters are meeting with success. Since the first of January 100 of these members have been enrolled.

Prof. Dan T. Gray, in charge of the swine industry division, states that a definite system of crop rotation will be planned for the different sections of the state. In the eastern part of the State, as a rule, the growing of peanuts will be encouraged. On instance has been noted in Edgecombe county where a farmer raised 20,750 pounds of pork on 140 acres of peanut land after the harvest had been gathered.

TAR HEEL BREVITIES. Jones county farmers are planning a cotton acreage reduction campaign. Citizens of Raleigh are making a special effort to retain the state school for blind.

Congressman H. L. Godwin who has been spending some time at his home at Dunn has returned to Washington. Pamlico county has had a woman notary public for several years. She is Miss Charlotte Muse of Cash Corner.

More than 60 have presented their claims as heirs of Sam Merrick, the Wilmington negro who died recently leaving \$5,000 in silver dollars and other property.

Congressman-elect James J. Britt of Asheville told a large audience of Hendersonville people recently in his interesting way about how to build and advertise a city.

Pamlico county is one of the best sweet potato growing counties in the state and the farmers of that section have during the past four months received thousands of dollars from the sale of the tubers.

Before the Legislature has granted the authority to issue them New Hanover county has tentatively sold \$35,000 worth of workhouse bonds, which run for 30 years and draw five per cent interest.

It is very probable that Mrs. C. B. Aycock will be appointed as postmistress at Raleigh.

Salisbury and Raleigh are both bidding for the state school for the blind. Mr. Hugh A. Murrill, Jr., of Charlotte, was appointed by Congressman Webb, a cadet to West Point. Mr. Purvey Summey of Dallas was named as first alternate and Mr. Henderson Hall of Belmont as second alternate.

Newbern is making ample preparations for entertaining the fremens' association this summer.

P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education will speak at a public school convention at West End, Hoke county, February 13.

Programs are being mailed to the members of the Southern Ice Exchange for the 26th annual meeting of that organization at Asheville, February 9-11.

Gastonia's fire insurance rate will be substantially reduced as the result of the purchase of a triple combination motor-driven fire truck, the putting on of a paid fire department and a number of other important changes that were made recently.

E. D. Latta of Charlotte has let the contract for \$250,000 block of buildings at that place.

Much road repair work is being done in Lincoln as the wet weather had played havoc with the new sand-clay roads in that county.

Strong tributes were paid to the late Rev. Thomas Lawrence, D. D., LL. D., at a memorial service conducted at Asheville at the Oakland Heights Presbyterian Church. The deceased was the founder of the Normal and Collegiate Institute and the students of that institution attended the service in a body.

Adjutant General Laurence W. Young has issued commissions to W. C. Albright as first lieutenant and R. A. Blizard as second lieutenant of Company I, First Regiment, Mount Airy. These men were elected by the company in compliance with a recent order.

Spray has become a model community. An up-to-date health officer, sanitary inspector, medical examination of school children and drinking water looked after are some of the things accomplished, and a program of systematic health education inaugurated.

Big Fire at Leons. Greenville.—Fire at Leons a few nights ago destroyed two stores with stocks of merchandise, the Atlantic Coast Line warehouse and did other damage. The fire started in H. A. Gray's store from an unknown cause, destroyed this store and the stock of merchandise, a loss of about \$7,500, with some insurance. The store occupied by Hines & Whitehurst was burned, the loss being about \$5,000, with \$2,000 insurance. The railroad's loss unknown, some other slight damage to other buildings was done.

DEFENSE AROUSES NATIONAL GUARD

CAPT. F. L. BLACK ADDRESSES NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION AT GOLDSBORO.

NEW OFFICERS ARE ELECTED

Major York Coleman, of Rutherfordton Succeeds Capt. Black of Charlotte as President.

Goldsboro.—The North Carolina National Guard Association adjourned a two days' session voting the stay in Goldsboro in every way enjoyable. The following officers were elected: President, Maj. York Coleman, Rutherfordton; vice president, Gen. Lawrence W. Young, Raleigh; secretary and treasurer, Capt. W. A. Fair, Lincolnton; assistant secretary and treasurer, Commander Wilson of Naval Reserves, Elizabeth City. The business session was purely routine in detail and full of interest and information to the delegates.

The opening session was held in the court house, the meeting being called to order with the roll call, after which prayer was offered by Rev. J. H. Dickinson, pastor of the Episcopal church, which was an inspiring and touching deliverance.

An address of welcome on behalf of the city was eloquently delivered by S. F. Teague, of the local bar, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, by Hon. M. H. Allen, on behalf of local military officers, by Col. John D. Langston, followed with a response by Maj. R. T. Daniel. Then followed the feature of the session, the address by the president of the association, Capt. F. L. Black, of Charlotte, who discussed many matters of importance the keynote of which was for the betterment of the military forces of the state, which was very interesting and listened to with close attention.

"Grant this to be true," said President Black, in his speech, "as to the volunteers offering their service—this is not the point—what will these same volunteers know about warfare—how many of them are trained soldiers? It would be an armed mob instead of armed and trained soldiers. It takes time to make and train a soldier; therefore, to delay strengthening our forces is dangerous. I might safely say suicidal. Where will the trained officers come from to handle our volunteers? Our regular establishment is already short and can ill spare any more for volunteers. Secretary Garrison is asking for one thousand additional officers now. The only real solution is to stir up our people to our needs and all join in a concerted effort to get our national legislative body to do something and at once. None of us want war but when it does come we want trained soldiers and plenty of them."

Blown Down by Heavy Wind. Black Mountain.—News comes to Black Mountain through the person of J. F. Lundy, chief engineer for the Perley & Crockett Lumber Co., which is getting lumber from Mount Mitchell and vicinity that the Eliza Mitchell monument was not dynamited, but was blown down by a very heavy gale of wind. It was through this source of information the first news came that the monument was dynamited. On the night of the shattering of the monument there were some shots heard in the direction of the monument and after seeing it was down the next morning the natural explanation to be made was that it was dynamited.

Peanut Crop May Be Damaged. Scotland Neck.—The continued wet weather throughout this section is becoming very alarming, almost every one declaring that the peanuts will be absolutely worthless in that they will rot in the stack. Since the time came for threshing peanuts there has not been a week of good weather so that the farmers could get them out of the fields, and as a consequence not more than one-third of the crop has been threshed. This applies to quite a large territory in this end of Halifax county and in Martin and Edgecombe counties.

Begin Work March 1. Wilmington.—Col. Walker Taylor, collector of customs for the port of Wilmington, has mailed notices to tenants of buildings now occupying the site of the proposed new customs house, that work of tearing away the buildings will be begun by the Government on March 1. There are a number of buildings on the property, since the area to be used by the new customs house covers an entire half block on the water front. It is expected that work on the new customs house will be under way soon.

Preparing For Big Season. Black Mountain.—The Montreat Association is doing much improvement at the present time along various lines, preparing for the heavy season which will begin in a short time. The light plant, inadequate last year, is being overhauled and put into better condition. Many improvements in the cottages are being made. The Young Men's Christian Association is also improving its inn-ensue plant for the approaching season. Last year the water supply was insufficient and this is being greatly increased.

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