

THE WEATHER
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WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 15, 1915

WHOLE NUMBER 13,881.

ALLIES SUFFER REVERSE ALONG THE AISNE NEAR SOISSONS AND LOSE THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS

French Official Report Counts Losses, But Minimizes Result of German Advance—Battle Lasted Continually for Over Two Days—Flooding of River Aisne Prevented Reinforcement of Troops.

EMPEROR WILLIAM HIMSELF WAS PRESENT DURING OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN FRANCE

Petrograd Claims Progress on the Lower Vistula, Where German Cavalry Repulsed—Fighting Largely Composed of Skirmishes and Artillery Duels Along the Other Fronts—British Drop Bombs on Antwerp.

A reverse of the Allies along the Aisne in the neighborhood of Soissons is admitted in the latest French official statement, although the possible effect of the German advance is officially minimized. After continuous engagements, which lasted nearly two days, the Germans forced the French to yield in front of Vregny, east of Crou. The French war office explains that the flooding of the river Aisne destroyed several bridges and thus rendered precarious the communications of the troops operating on the right bank. These troops were withdrawn, as it was thought impossible to send reinforcements to their support.

"The success is a partial one for our adversaries," said the French statement, "but will have no influence on the operations as a whole." Emperor William himself was present at these operations, which resulted in capture of several thousand prisoners and were continued through January 12 and 13.

Petrograd claims progress on the right bank of Lower Vistula, where the German cavalry was repulsed. On the other front the fighting is made up largely of skirmishes and artillery duels.

The general staff of the Russian Caucasus army devotes a statement to operations in Azerbaijan, where it is explained it became expedient to regroup the Russian forces, necessitating evacuation of certain places previously occupied. No important action took place.

British aviators early in the week dropped bombs on the German position in Antwerp, according to a Netherlands newspaper. The damage has not been ascertained.

Eighteen Russian generals have been discharged from important positions, according to the Hamburg Fremdenblatt.

Geneva reports that members of the Austrian nobility and aristocracy and Viennese financiers are depositing large sums of money in Switzerland, and also giving orders for purchase of quantities of ammunition supplies.

Secretary Bryan has acknowledged in a friendly spirit receipt of the preliminary British reply to the American protest against treatment accorded neutral commerce by British warships. No comment is made by the Secretary in view of the fact that it is Great Britain's intention to reply later in detail.

FRENCH ADMIT LOSSES

Forced to Leave Several Cannon—Large Number of Prisoners Taken. French, Jan. 14.—The following official communication was issued at the war office tonight:

"Last night our troops were successful in a sudden attack with the object of overwhelming the trenches recently constructed by the Germans to the northeast of Pouguescourt, North of Soissons (department of the Somme). The attacks of the enemy in the region to the North of Soissons, have been stopped."

"As has been said in the communication of this morning, the flooding of the river Aisne, which destroyed several of our bridges, had rendered very precarious the communications of our troops operating on the first slopes of the right bank. We were thus prevented from sending them reinforcements. This has been the essential cause of the withdrawal of those troops which were fighting under difficult conditions."

"We were obliged to abandon several cannon as the result of the breaking down of a bridge. We have rendered all of them unfit for use."

"Germans have made many prisoners, including a number of wounded men who in the withdrawal movement, were not able to take with us. On our side we have made a number of important prisoners, not wounded, belonging to several different regiments."

"The success is a partial one for our adversaries, which will have no influence on operations as a whole. In fact, by reason of the obstacles presented by the Aisne and the dispositions which we have taken, the enemy will be unable to utilize to the South of the river the success which is of purely local character."

"On the rest of the front there is nothing to report."

EMPEROR WILLIAM PRESENT

German Emperor Saw Defeat of French Forces—Prisoners Taken. Berlin, Jan. 14 (by Wireless to London).—Emperor William was present in person during the spirited battle on the Vregny Plain, northeast of Soissons, which resulted yesterday in the elevated ground being cleared of the French and which was described in the German official statement to-

RUSSIAN LINES CHANGED

Official Report From Headquarters of Army of the Caucasus Published. Petrograd, Jan. 14.—The official report from the Caucasus army issued tonight follows:

"To avoid any false understanding of our operations in Azerbaijan during the last few days the general staff of the Caucasus army deems it expedient to give the following explanation:

"From the beginning of the decisive action in the principal region of this theatre of the war, it appeared necessary to regroup our troops. In accordance with this we proceeded in Azerbaijan to concentrate our troops at certain places which demanded the evacuation of several points we had occupied previously."

"This pre-arrangement of our forces was not under pressure of the enemy, but in accordance with a specially devised plan. During this operation no engagement took place, except an important action which our advance guard had near Mianoduz. Thus we did not evacuate Azerbaijan, but adopted changes in position in answering better the new developments."

NAVAHOE CARRIES COTTON TO BREMEN

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 14.—The Clyde steamer Navahoe sailed today for Bremen, Germany, with a cargo of cotton. She has 4,000 bales on board and was loaded under the supervision of inspectors from the British consular office here. Her hatches were battened and stamped with the British government seal.

FIRE AT BATTLEBORO

Warehouse Destroyed at Loss of Approximately \$15,000. Battleboro, N. C., Jan. 14.—Fire which destroyed a warehouse owned by M. P. Braaswell here last night for a time threatened to destroy the entire town. The flames were confined to the warehouse after considerable effort. The loss is estimated at about \$15,000.

HOBSON DELIVERS A FIERY ADDRESS

Says National Liquor Forces Dominate in Washington.

ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE

Will Use His Frank to Fight for National Prohibition—Addresses by Other Prominent Speakers. Banquet Held.

(Special Star Telegram.) Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 14.—In his address before the North Carolina Anti-Saloon League tonight, Congressman Richmond P. Hobson charged that the National administration at Washington and the dominant forces in Congress are dominated by the national liquor forces, as evidenced by the fact that they refused to entertain his amendment to the War Revenue bill to cut out tax on liquors as an iniquitous source of revenue.

He declared the fight now is for Congress to submit to the states the question of a National prohibition amendment to the constitution, and predicted this will come certainly by 1920 and then all candidates and platforms, State and National, of all parties, will be required in 1916 to declare a position as to the National prohibition movement.

He said he has until next December to use his congressional postage frank. He proposes to issue personal letters and copies of his latest speech to 15,000 people in that time and wants North Carolinians to help him by undertaking to send these to their personal acquaintances with his mailing frank as he could supply it.

He said he might, as his enemies insisted, be politically dead, but he had rather be politically dead and lead the prohibition fight as he is, than to be President and bound up with the liquor forces.

Officers Elected. The North Carolina Anti-Saloon League this afternoon elected officers. Dr. L. E. M. Freeman was chosen secretary, and Henry Young, of Raleigh, auditor. The association heard a strong address by Dr. W. L. Potest, of Wake Forest College, and another by Dr. A. J. Barton, of Texas, both being continued on Page Two.

COTTON EXPORTS HAVE BECOME NEAR NORMAL

December Figures Nearly Equal Those of Year Ago

Figures for the Entire Five Months of Season, However, Over Fifty Per cent. Below Total for Same Period Year Ago.

Washington, Jan. 14.—Cotton exports became almost normal during December, 1,202,115 bales having been sent abroad, compared with 1,230,830 bales in December, 1913. Exports for the first five months of the cotton year, however, showed a decrease of more than 50 per cent. from the same period of 1913, the total being 5,907,164 bales compared with 11,874,880 bales.

Of the month's exports the United Kingdom and Italy both showed increases over December, 1913, the former by almost 100,000 bales and Italy by about 120,000 bales. Germany's takings, however, showed a decrease of 279,000.

Cotton used in the United States during December amounted to 459,834 bales, about 5,000 bales less than in December, 1913. There were about 400,000 bales less in manufacturers' hands December 31 compared with 1913, while the quantity in independent warehouses showed an increase of almost 2,000,000 bales compared with the previous year, the amount being 5,187,877 bales.

Imports were 32,293 bales against 15,315 last year, and for the five months 100,121 against 43,899 a year ago. Cotton spindles active numbered 30,465,968 against 31,004,716 a year ago.

Linters used was 23,925 bales against 21,933 a year ago, and for the five months 131,484 bales against 133,954 last year; on hand in manufacturing establishments 61,399 bales against 74,580 a year ago and in independent warehouses 99,506 against 44,302 a year ago.

Linters exported was 30,431 bales and for the five months 44,995 bales.

Makes Second Forecast

In June, 1913, Mitchell came to him and said, and told him that Russell, American minister under Taft, was not returning.

"He told me," the witness testified, "that if I were a good guesser he'd tell me the name of the next minister. It ends with an 'N' he said."

That Secretary Bryan at that time had a high opinion of Sullivan was evidenced by a letter placed on the record by Walter W. Vick, who succeeded Pulliam as receiver general, and who after his removal instigated the present investigation.

PROTEST DIRECT TO GENERAL GARRANZA

Concerning Treatment of Foreign Interests at Tampico.

ASSESSMENT IS LEVIED

Oil Well Owners Called Upon to Pay Large Sums to Mexican Faction—Doubt as to Gutierrez Being Continued in Office.

Washington, Jan. 14.—Secretary Bryan has sent a vigorous protest direct to the Carranza authorities at Tampico against their threat to close the great oil wells in that vicinity because the foreign operators refused to pay a heavy assessment levied by the Mexicans. The matter also has been brought to the attention of General Carranza himself.

Most of the oil plants are owned by American and British capital. There have been several complaints against degrees of the Carranza officials, reports coming directly from State Department representatives as well as through the interested foreign embassies. Latest advices indicated that the Mexicans were preparing summarily to shut down all of the plants unless the money demanded was forthcoming. Doubt as to whether General Gutierrez had been continued by the convention at Mexico City as provisional president, existed today at the State Department. A telegram from Mexico City announced that the chairman of the convention late Tuesday night gave out a notice "that the convention had concluded and would continue President Gutierrez in office, but for some unknown reason the notice was recalled."

Denial at Washington. General Palafox, member of the Gutierrez cabinet, denied in a statement received at the State Department from Mexico City, that he had any intention, in a previous public statement, of charging American Consul Silliman and Leon J. Canova, a State Department agent, with having received an amount of money to take General Gutierrez out of the country.

The Carranza agency here issued this statement: "General Palafox from Vera Cruz denies Tampa is threatened by a Villa force, and says officers of the gunboat Guerrero reported deserting to Gutierrez forces are still loyal. Gen. Pablo Gonzalez took Villa on the outskirts of San Luis Potosi."

"Gen. Luis Gutierrez wired Nuevo Laredo today that the Villistas are evacuating Saitillo and retreating towards San Luis Potosi. He reports that the Villista force was under command of General Angeles and numbered only 6,000 men."

SECRETARY BRYAN CHARGED WITH LENDING EAR TO WALL STREET IN SULLIVAN MATTER

William E. Pulliam, Receiver-General for Santo Domingo, During Taft Administration, a Witness at New York, and Charges Secretary of State With Listening to the Financial Interests in This Country.

New York, Jan. 14.—Assertions that changes made by the present Washington administration in the personnel of this government's officials in the Dominican Republic were due to the influence of interests seeking to exploit that country's finances were made today at the inquiry conducted by Senator-elect Phelan, of California, to determine whether James M. Sullivan, the American minister, is fit to hold his post.

Secretary of State Bryan was accused of lending ear in appointing Sullivan to the Samuel M. Jarvis coterie of New York financiers who controlled the Banco Nacional at Santo Domingo. This institution was alleged to have been an institution without standing on the island, and which sought to obtain the deposit of customs duties, whose collection is administered by the United States and other government funds.

William E. Pulliam, receiver general of the customs at Santo Domingo during the Taft administration, testified that F. J. R. Mitchell, president of the Banco Nacional, had published in a Dominican newspaper that W. T. S. Doule, head of the department of Latin-American affairs in the State Department, had been removed on complaint of Mitchell and that Mitchell subsequently had said to him:

"I told you so. There'll be several other changes and they'll extend to Santo Domingo."

In June, 1913, Mitchell came to him and said, and told him that Russell, American minister under Taft, was not returning.

"He told me," the witness testified, "that if I were a good guesser he'd tell me the name of the next minister. It ends with an 'N' he said."

That Secretary Bryan at that time had a high opinion of Sullivan was evidenced by a letter placed on the record by Walter W. Vick, who succeeded Pulliam as receiver general, and who after his removal instigated the present investigation.

Eight years the receivership had been operated without trouble and the difficulties that later arose were unquestionably caused by Sullivan's transferring the funds to the Banco Nacional. That was what they wanted. They had no funds. They wanted to establish credit for themselves. The bank was a joke."

"My objection to Pulliam is that he was entirely too friendly with Michelana." "I said: 'Now that your administration has been forced to put back the Michelana bank, don't you think I have been vindicated?'" "He evaded the question."

"Did Mr. Bryan appear to be obsessed with the belief that the power behind Michelana was the National City Bank, which represented to him the

WARM DEBATE ON BRYAN INVITATION

Cooper Resolution Finally is Adopted by Both Houses.

TO SPEAK JANUARY 30

State-Wide Primary Bill Introduced in the House—Bill to Repeal "Long and Short Haul" Clause of Justice Act Introduced.

(Special Star Correspondence.) Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 14.—Both houses of the General Assembly had stirring debates over joint resolutions for the invitation of Secretary of State W. J. Bryan to address the Assembly, January 30, and against the precedent of extending invitations for any persons to address the Legislature. The Bryan invitation resolution is ready for ratification tomorrow, and the resolution against the principle of extending such invitations went to appropriate committees for later report and action.

Senator W. B. Cooper offered the resolution to invite Bryan in the Senate. It passed without opposition. Then Senator Johnson, of Duplin, moved to reconsider the vote, but this was lost—20 to 19. Then Senator Johnson offered the resolution against the principle of extending invitations as opening the way for special pleaders to procure such invitations. It went to committee.

In the House the Senate resolution inviting Bryan came over and finally passed—72 to 33—after opposition led by Hutchinson, of Mecklenburg, and Allen, of Wayne. A motion by Allen that the vote be incorporated in the invitation to Bryan was withdrawn. Hutchinson offered the resolution against extending invitations.

In the House, Vann, of Union county, offered a State-wide primary bill similar to that offered in the Senate yesterday by Senator McNeely.

Senator Ward introduced in the Senate a bill to repeal the "long and short clause" of the Justice intra-state freight rate act. The general expectation is that the bill will have easy sailing in both houses.

A bill by Senator Weaver empowers the State committee on providing a statue of Governor Zebulon B. Vance, in Statuary Hall, at the National Capitol, to set up either a marble or bronze stone, instead of limiting it to marble as the original resolution does, artists advising that bronze will best develop features of strong men, and cost possibly \$2,000 less than a marble statue would.

Governor Craig and Council of State have just approved the selection of Gutzon Borgium, of New York, as the artist, the statue to cost not exceeding \$2,000.

QUICK AND THE DEAD LIE BURIED BENEATH RUINS OF DWELLINGS

MUCH DEPENDS ON STEAMER MIDDLE

Outcome of Controversy Over Dacia is Important.

SALE NOT BONA FIDE

Former German Vessel Loading Cotton at Galveston for Bremen, Recently Sold to American Interests, May Not Sall.

London, Jan. 14.—Cable advices to the foreign office today said that loading of the Hamburg-American steamship Dacia at Port Arthur, Texas, had been suspended. The hope is entertained in official circles that the United States will not permit this former German vessel, validity of whose transfer to American registry is questioned, to enter the German cotton trade.

The Washington suggestion that the Dacia might carry cotton to Rotterdam instead of Bremen is not regarded by British officials as offering a solution. The foreign office is not disposed to decide precisely what action will be taken until it is known positively that the Dacia has sailed for Germany under the American flag. Even then it is probable, a prominent official intimated, that her cargo would be permitted to reach its destination, but the vessel detained, if the facts in connection with her sale are as reported here.

Other Vessels Released. The foreign office announced today that the Swedish vessels Canton and New Sweden, from New York for Gothenburg, had been released. American owners of lumber cargoes which have been detained complain that the lumber is held until the charges against it exceed the invoice price.

Interested shippers declare the official British statement that only several neutral vessels now are in prize courts and only five others are being detained in English ports for examination is not known. Indication of the amount of alleged contraband being held up, since thousands of questioned consignments are stored in warehouses.

BRITISH PRESS COMMENT.

Several Papers Think Germany Arranged Situation to Involve American. London, Jan. 14.—The Post today emphasizes the seriousness of issues. Continued on Page Eight.

WHEAT PRICES HIGHEST ON MARKET IN YEARS

Flour Prices Advance—Wheat Shortage Predicted.

Five European Nations Active Buyers on Chicago Market—England Has Only 60-Day Supply. May Enter Market.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—Generally accepted assertions that unless the European demand soon diminishes the United States would have no wheat to ship abroad after March lifted the price of that cereal here to \$1.43 3/8, the highest in many years. Retail flour prices rose simultaneously, sacks which recently sold for 70 cents going to 90 cents.

Five European governments were reported today to be active in the wheat market on this side of the Atlantic, in addition to individual buyers from foreign fields. The result was figured to be exportation at the rate of 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 bushels a week.

The governments which are direct purchasers in the United States are the Swiss, Greek, Italian, Dutch and French. So far the British government has done nothing as a government, but Great Britain's food supply is said here to be down to a 60 days' basis and if Great Britain as a government, should enter the market, the result, would be hard to foresee.

TO ELECT SUCCESSOR TO SUPERINTENDENT COLE.

Trustees of Methodist Orphanage to Meet January 21st.

(Special Star Correspondence.) Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 14.—Chairman Joseph G. Brown, of the board of trustees of the North Carolina Methodist Orphanage, has called a meeting of the board to be held in this city January 21 for the purpose more especially of selecting a new superintendent to succeed Dr. J. N. Cole, who died recently in a Charlotte hospital.

It is understood that there are just one more candidates for the position being especially mentioned than there are members of the board of trustees so that every member can advocate a different candidate and still there will be one to spare.

Estimate of Aggregate Fatalities Unobtainable—Will Reach Many Thousands.

MANY TOWNS LEVELLED

School Children Buried Alive When Building Collapsed. Relief Work Beginning.

King Emmanuel Directs Work of Relief in Avezzano.

Rome, Jan. 15.—Demolished or partially demolished towns dot Italy from Naples northward to Ferrara and crosswise the peninsula from Tyrrhenian to the Adriatic sea, over which Wednesday's earthquake passed.

Thousands of dead lie beneath the debris of dwellings, churches and public institutions which crumbled under the earth's vibrations.

Not even an estimate of the aggregate fatalities is obtainable as numerous places are still isolated owing to the severance of telegraphic, telephonic and railroad communication. It is known, however, that Avezzano is a necropolis and that also in Sorra, some 25 miles to the southeast, a large number of lives were lost.

In Avezzano and vicinity it is estimated that 15,000 perished and that the dead in Sorra will total 1,000.

So far as known about 20 tons have been completely levelled, while almost an equal number suffered serious damage. In all these places many were killed or injured.

Volunteers worked heroically all day endeavoring to extricate wounded or rescued the dead from ruins. King Victor Emmanuel himself directed the work at Avezzano where the piteous appeals of persons caught beneath wreckage could be plainly heard.

It is estimated that in Avezzano 400 persons are buried alive, some of them school children in an institution which collapsed. Only four soldiers of the garrison of 400 in Avezzano escaped when the barracks fell.

Sorra with its population of 20,000 was most entirely destroyed. All municipalities and government authorities perished. Four hundred and fifty bodies already have been taken from the ruins there and a large number of injured are under treatment.

Trains from the east are bringing hundreds of injured into Rome, where they are being taken to hospitals and private homes for treatment. Surgeons and nurses are being dispatched from all directions into the stricken districts to minister to the needs of the injured, while troops are being sent to guard against vandalism.

Among the towns which are said to have been virtually destroyed are Avezzano, Sorra, Capelle, Magliano, Marsa, Massandria, Collarmele, Segrate, Balotano, Canistro, Civitellandantino, Castellafiumi, Pagliotta and Sorbo are badly damaged.

From many other places come reports of slighter damage and minor casualties.

Death's Toll Increases. The toll of dead and injured in the great earthquake which has swept over central and southern Italy has not been made up, but advices reaching Rome indicate the ever-growing extent of the disaster.

Towns with its inhabitants have been overthrown and from some of these details which show an immense loss of life. Estimates ran tonight from 25,000 to 50,000 dead and injured and yet there are several sections which undoubtedly felt the earthquake in full measure from which no estimates can be obtained.

In the ancient territory of Marsi, which includes Avezzano the victims are placed at 400. Only a small minority is left of the inhabitants of Avezzano who numbered approximately 10,000.

Fifteen other towns and villages in that section have been laid waste. King Victor Emmanuel is at Avezzano and 30,000 soldiers have been dispatched to various centers where the force of the disturbance was greatest.

Whole Nation Aids. Italy as a nation has arisen again to give succor, as she did at the time of the Messina earthquake six years ago, to those who have fallen in this latest catastrophe from which the country has suffered.

While the greater part of the damage was done by the first earthquake which occurred Wednesday morning at 7:55 there has been at least one severe shock since then which resulted in the collapse of many structures which escaped the first and it is estimated that more than one hundred shocks, for the most part of amino nature, occurred during the 24 hours after the disaster.

AVEZZANO IN RUINS

Recently a Great City, Now Like a Cemetery—Thousands Under Ruins. Avezzano, (via Rome), Jan. 14.—Avezzano is filled with dead, wounded and wrecked houses. It is like the ruins of a cemetery.

Those who escaped the destruction caused by earthquake went heroically to work to rescue those penned under the fallen walls.

Nearly all the civic officials of Avezzano and parish priests, monks and

(Continued on Page Two.)