

BRITISH ARMY FORCED BY TURKS TO RETREAT IN MARCH ON BAGDAD

General Townshend's Troops Apparently Had City Almost Within Grasp.

FORCES OUTNUMBERED

Rumania May Yet Join Allies or Allow Russians to Pass Into Bulgaria.

Desperate Fighting Continues in Gorizia District.

London, Dec. 4.—The British, German and Turkish accounts of the recent fighting in Mesopotamia, while containing minor disparities respecting the casualties and character of the British retreat on the Tigris, clearly establish the fact that without further reinforcements to equal the overpowering odds against which they have been struggling, the British troops under General Townshend have little prospect of continuing the march to Bagdad, which city appeared a few weeks ago to be almost within their grasp.

Having advanced during October and November through the desert of Iraq to the very environs of Bagdad, the British force is now retreating upon Kut-el-Amara, 80 miles southeast of Ctesiphon, the scene of the battle fought in the latter part of November in which the British troops met their first serious check.

The position therefore of General Townshend's force is much the same as in September after the battle of Kut-el-Amara. According to a recent account large Turkish reinforcements, supplementing the forces which already outnumbered the British forces four to one, were flung against the British troops retreating down the Tigris, and made a British stand impossible.

There have been no military events of any importance in the Balkans since the fall of Monastir. Recent reports make Rumania loom unusually large on the Balkan horizon, and that country is generally accredited with the intention either of joining the Allies or at least strengthening neutrality to the point of allowing the passage of Russian troops. There has been, however, no confirmation of the report that Russian troops have already entered Rumanian territory.

Commander Foreign Ships Rumania's declaration that after Monday she will commandeer all foreign ships anchored in Rumanian ports, is regarded by some as proof of Rumania's intention to abandon her neutrality, but the British press and public in general which have been skeptical over premature announcements of changes in the policy of the Balkan states, show little disposition to take a favorable issue for granted until it is established beyond the possibility of a doubt.

Aside from the continuance of desperate fighting between Austrians and Italians in the Gorizia district, there is comparatively little activity on the other fronts.

RETIRING TO KUT-EL-AMARA

Total British Casualties at Ctesiphon Announced to 4,467.

London, Dec. 4.—The British army in Mesopotamia is in retreat. Official announcements were made today that the forces of General Townshend were retreating to Kut-el-Amara. The statement says: General Townshend remained in occupation of the battlefield at Ctesiphon, beating off all counter attacks, till he had completed the removal of his wounded and of 1,600 prisoners taken from the enemy; but in view of our heavy losses and arrival of Turkish reinforcements he then withdrew.

It is reported that our total casualties in these actions amounted to 4,567. No report is made of any political officer being wounded as was alleged in the Turkish official statement.

ARE PURSUING BRITISH

Turkish Report Says Four British River Vessels Have Been Sunk.

Berlin, (via Wireless to Sayville), Dec. 4.—An official Turkish report was given out here today by the Overseas Agency states that pursuit of the defeated British army is being carried on energetically and that four British river vessels have been captured.

MEET TO CONSIDER PHASES OF AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING

Committee Will Supervise Activities of Lloyd's Registry System.

Philadelphia, Dec. 4.—Heads of almost all the large shipbuilding firms in the eastern states attended an official conference at Charles E. Mathers' estate, West Chester, Pa., today, to consider phases of the American shipbuilding industry, affected by the recent enactment in this country of a committee of Lloyd's registry association.

SUPPORT IN HOUSE OF DEFENSE PLANS NOW IS CERTAIN

Assured by Democratic Committee Nominations Made in Caucus Yesterday.

KITCHIN IS SATISFIED

No Opposition to His Continuing as Head of Ways and Means Committee.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Democratic nominations for House committees announced today by the House Democratic caucus, which will be laid before the House Monday, assure support for President Wilson's National defense programme. Republicans on the committees will be announced later. Five of six new members of the naval committee are "big navy" men.

Oscar Callaway, of Texas, named to succeed the late Representative Witherspoon of Mississippi, is opposed to any material increase in the navy. Witherspoon was of the same conviction and the naming of Callaway was a recognition of how Witherspoon would have voted if he had returned to Congress. The new members of the military affairs committee are said to be unanimously in favor of a larger army.

Claude Kitchin, chairman of the ways and means committee, is opposed to the programme of preparedness, but he said today that he was satisfied with the personnel of the committees. No opposition developed to Kitchin's continuing to head the ways and means committee.

These are the Democratic designations to the army and navy committees: Naval—Padgett, Tennessee, chairman; Talbot, Maryland; Estopinal, Louisiana; Riordan, New York; Tribble, Georgia; Hensley, Missouri; Buchanan, Illinois; Gray, Indiana; Callaway, Texas; Hart, New Jersey; Connolly, Kansas; Oliver, Alabama, and Liebel, Pennsylvania.

Military—Ely, Virginia, chairman; Dent, Alabama; Fields, Kentucky; McKellar, Tennessee; Quinn, Mississippi; Gordon, Ohio; Littlepage, West Virginia; Shallenberger, Nebraska; Farley, and Caldwell, of New York; Wise, Georgia; Onley, Massachusetts, and Nichols, South Carolina.

The chairmanships of the larger committees remain unchanged from the last session. Representative Bascom, of South Carolina, who figured prominently as an insurgent of the banking and currency committee last year, was not re-nominated to that committee but was placed on the foreign affairs committee. Thirteen Democrats and eight members of the minority parties will compose each of the larger committees.

ABANDON CLOTURE PROPOSAL

Democratic Senate Caucus Agrees It is Non-Partisan Question.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The fight to commit Senate Democrats to a cloture rule which began immediately after the ship purchase bill was filibustered to death in the Senate at the last session, practically was abandoned at today's meeting of the Democratic caucus, although it was agreed that a non-partisan effort should be made to correct abuses that have made filibusters a matter of frequent practice.

It was declared to be the sense of the caucus that revision of the rules should not be a partisan question, and that the whole subject should be referred to the rules committee. A resolution to that effect will be introduced in Congress Monday, and the rules committee, of which Senator Overman is chairman, will proceed with the subject.

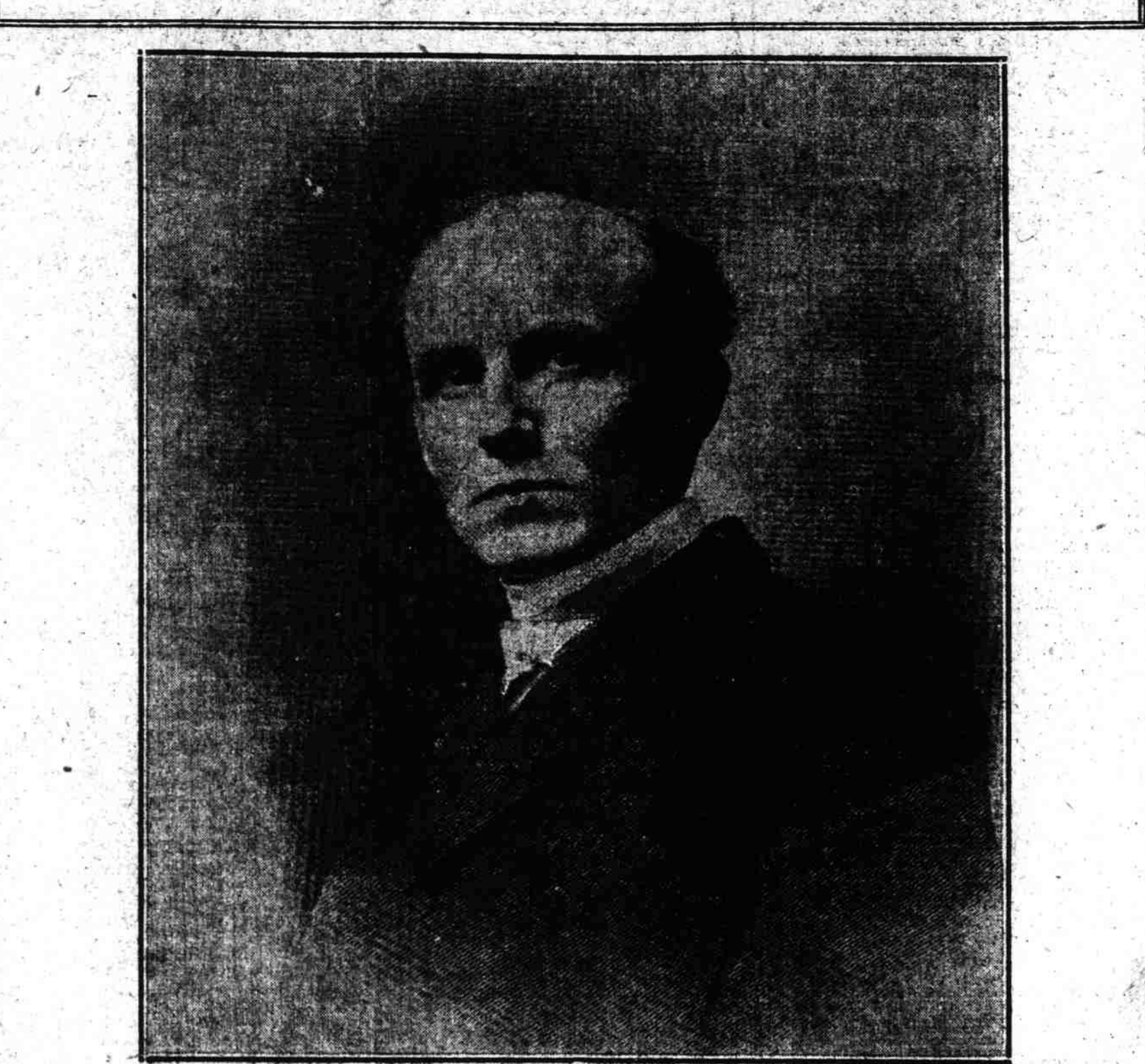
GERMAN OR AUSTRIAN U-BOAT ATTACKS AMERICAN STEAMER

Wireless Call for Help From Unnamed Ship South of Crete Reaches Athens—Collier Caesar Reported Probably in Vicinity From Which Message Was Sent.

Athens, Dec. 4.—A wireless S. O. S. call reached Athens this morning from an unnamed American ship, the message stating that she was being attacked by an Austrian or German submarine south of the island of Crete. Subsequent efforts to communicate with the vessel were fruitless. The American legation here sent a report regarding the matter to Washington.

The collier Caesar, which is in eastern Mediterranean waters, may be in the vicinity from which the message was sent. Word from the collier Caesar received in Washington and given out today was that she sailed yesterday from Port Said, at the entrance of the Suez canal, for Alexandria and a few passengers and refugees aboard.

ALL WHO CAN WILL HEAR HIM PREACH THIS MORNING.



Bishop John C. Kilgo, who is presiding at the Annual Session of the North Carolina Methodist Conference in Wilmington, will preach in Grace church today at 11 o'clock. The Bishop's sermon is always one of the big events of the annual conference and it is always heard by all who can get into the church, sitting or standing, and today at 11 o'clock. The Bishop's crowds are turned away after the church has been filled to overflowing. Bishop Kilgo is recognized as one of the very strongest preachers in the South.

WILL PROBE OTHER CONSUL OFFICIALS

Wide Investigation to be Made by United States.

OF THOSE SUSPECTED

Allies May Refuse Safe Conduct to Boy-Ed and Von Papen, Although Their Presence in United States is Undesired.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Developments following the request for withdrawal of Captain Karl Boy-Ed and Franz Von Papen, naval and military attaches of the German embassy, indicated today that the State Department would conduct a wide investigation of foreign consul officials in the United States whose suspected activities in some instances are looked upon with extreme disfavor. Should the investigation disclose that any of the officials have acted in a manner considered improper their exequaturs will be cancelled or the State Department will find other means of having them discontinued in the offices they held.

Any action taken will undoubtedly have the full approval of President Wilson. It is understood that the State Department is proceeding with the utmost care, and officials are reluctant to discuss the matter. It was said at the department tonight, however, that no decision had been reached as to the return to Germany of the Austro-Hungarian consul general in New York, whose name frequently has been mentioned in connection with the activities of Boy-Ed and Von Papen.

NO REPORT TO WASHINGTON

Suggested Vessel May Be Greek Merchant Ship Flying American Flag.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The State Department late today had received no official information regarding the reported attack on an American ship in the Mediterranean. Officials thought there was little possibility that the collier Caesar was the ship referred to in news despatches as attacked by a submarine, and suggested that it probably was one of a small fleet of merchant vessels plying in Grecian waters under the American flag but owned entirely by Greek capital. An attack on a ship of that status, it was said, probably would not confront the United States with a serious international problem unless there were Americans aboard.

SCHOONER IN COLLISION

SUNK OFF CAPE HATTERAS

New York, Dec. 4.—The American schooner Linch C. Kamen was sunk off Cape Hatteras today in a collision with the Spanish steamer Conde Wilfredo, according to a wireless message from the Spanish steamship transmitted to the Marconi wireless station at Miami, Fla. The schooner's crew was saved.

The Wilfredo was bound from Galveston to Barcelona and the schooner from Newport News to Cuba.

FORD EXPEDITION SAILS FOR EUROPE

Throng Gathers at Pier to Bid the Party Farewell.

BRYAN IS AMONG CROWD

Spends Some Time on Ship Bidding Party "Good Speed"—Mr. Ford Confident Mission Will Accomplish Great Good.

New York, Dec. 4.—Henry Ford and more than 80 members of the Ford Peace Commission sailed from here today on the steamer Oscar I, for Christiania, Norway, for the purpose of creating sentiment for a conference of neutral nations in the hope of ending the European war. The party was accompanied by 57 newspaper correspondents and photographers, and more than 20 general assistants, secretaries and stenographers.

The steamer sailed at 3:15 o'clock this afternoon, one hour and 15 minutes later than the scheduled sailing hour. The delay was caused largely by the late arrival of 15 members of the Ford party, as well as the large crowd which thronged the ship to bid farewell to various members of the party.

William J. Bryan spent some time on the ship bidding "good speed," as he termed it, to the party. Thomas A. Edison was another of those who called on Mr. Ford after the latter had boarded the steamer.

There is some chance for the mission to succeed," said Mr. Bryan, "that is all I care to say now, except that I wish them every good fortune."

SHIP IS DECORATED

All of the saloons and many of the cabins on the steamer were decorated with palms, ferns, flowers, flags and streamers representing the nationalities of the world.

SENTENCE IMPOSED ON FOUR OFFICIALS

Dr. Buenz, Cotter and Hachmeister Given 18 Months.

IN PRISON AT ATLANTA

Popplaghaus Was Sentenced to One Year and Hamburg-American Line Was Fined One Dollar—Appeal Regarded Certain.

New York, Dec. 4.—Dr. Carl Buenz, George Cotter and Adolph Hachmeister, of the Hamburg-American Line, recently convicted of conspiracy to defraud the United States government, were sentenced today to serve one and a half years in the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta. Joseph Popplaghaus was sentenced to one year. The Hamburg-American Line was fined one dollar. Bail was fixed at \$10,000 in each case and was accepted from a surety company.

The trial of Dr. Buenz and his associates was the culmination of an investigation begun last winter by Federal agents into the chartering and sailing of certain vessels from American ports in August, September and December, 1914.

It was charged that these vessels concealing their purpose by false manifests and clearance papers, were engaged in supplying provisions to German cruisers which were raiding Entente commerce in the South Atlantic ocean. Judge Howe overruled motions for the defense for dismissal of the verdict on the ground that it was contrary to the evidence and law.

United States District Attorney H. Snowden Marshall, moving sentence, said it was "his painful duty to ask for substantial punishment, not as much for its effects on the defendants but to serve as a warning to others."

None of the defendants showed any emotion. Prior to the opening of court they were surrounded by a number of sympathizers with whom they chatted freely. Dr. Buenz told his listeners that his only regret was that the American people should believe he had done anything to injure them or had ever had anything but the kindest feelings toward this country.

M. E. CONFERENCE FOR PROHIBITION IN STATE AND NATION

Membership of the Churches Increased to 89,464 During the Past Year.

MEETS NEXT IN DURHAM

Reports of Various Boards Yesterday Show Gratifying Growth and Progress.

The North Carolina Methodist Conference yesterday accepted an invitation, presented by Rev. H. M. North, to hold its next annual session with Memorial church in Durham. The only other church asking for the Conference was Jarvis Memorial church, of Greenville, but the vote of the Conference was 114 to 25 in favor of the Durham church.

The Conference yesterday adopted recommendations of the committee on temperance by which the Conference memorializes Congress to submit the National prohibition amendment to the states for ratification and to enact a prohibition law for the District of Columbia, and memorializes the Legislature of North Carolina to enact laws to limit the legal possession of liquors in the State, to prohibit the sale of wine and cider, and to prohibit the shipment into the State or the receipt within the State of intoxicating liquors from other states.

A large part of the session was consumed in hearing the reports of various Conference boards and committees, discussion and adoption of these reports. From various reports the following statistics are compiled, showing something of the work in the Conference during the past year: Status of the Conference affairs: Additions on profession of faith, 5,975; present total membership, 89,464; net gain for the year, 4,340; infants baptized, 1,100; members of the church, 75,928; paid for foreign missions, \$23,456; home missions, \$20,851; paid preaching elders, \$18,641; paid preachers in charge \$187,000; grand total of money collected for various purposes, \$524,226; value of churches, \$2,421,224.

Bishop John C. Kilgo will preach at Grace church this morning at 11 o'clock and immediately after the sermon the class of deacons will be ordained. This morning at 8:30 o'clock will be the annual love feast and service of prayer, testimony and song which will be conducted by Rev. A. D. Betts and Rev. W. H. Moore. At 7:30 o'clock this afternoon the memorial services will be conducted. Five ministers have died during the year and memoirs of them will be read by members of the conference at 7:30 o'clock this evening. Rev. W. W. Peelo, of Trinity College, will preach. The public is cordially invited to attend all services at Grace church today.

Practically all the Protestant pulpits of the city, both white and colored, will be occupied by members of the Conference today and tonight. The effect of the European war upon the mission work of the church was discussed in an able address by Rev. Dr. E. F. Cook, of Nashville, Tenn., at Grace Methodist church last evening, the occasion being the anniversary of the Conference of the North Carolina Conference. Dr. Cook was introduced by Rev. J. D. Bundy, pastor of Grace church, who is also president of the Conference.

Rev. N. H. D. Wilson, of Goldsboro, secretary of the Board of Missions of the Conference, read the report of contributions for home and foreign missions by the Conference during the year, the total being approximately \$48,000. For foreign missions, \$23,456 was contributed, an increase of \$1,768 over last year's report. For home and conference missions, \$24,544 was contributed, or an increase of \$1,615.

The Conference will more than probably adjourn by about 1 o'clock Monday, immediately after the reading of the list of appointments for the coming year, which is the one event of the annual meeting of intense universal interest among the Methodists throughout the Conference territory. At the close of yesterday's session the Conference was well up with its work, so that there is no prospect now that Monday morning's session will not end the annual gathering.

WANT SINGING CONFERENCE

At the opening devotional services of the Conference yesterday morning, Bishop Kilgo's talk was briefer than usual, the main feature being an exhortation to the younger members of the Conference to learn to sing the old-time hymns and tunes of the fathers and to use them, instead of the new and modern songs of the present day. He said that while the North Carolina Conference is superior to others in various respects, others beat it when it comes to singing. "I want you to make this a singing Conference," he said. "He considers singing an essential part of religious work and deems it an important part of the religious life."

Speaking of the difference between the ways of the fathers and the present generation, Bishop Kilgo said: "I'm not surprised that our fathers shouted, 'I'm not surprised that we have quit it. They had something to shout over; we haven't much.' 'Stand Up for Jesus,' and 'I'm Glad Salvation's Free' were the hymns sung during the service and the prayer was led by Rev. E. H. Ross.

On recommendation of Presiding Elder J. T. Gibbs, of the Fayetteville district, Rev. N. M. McDonald was readmitted to the Conference, as was also announced today.

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