

### ROBERT E. GONZALES DIES AT THE BORDER

Had Been Ill of Pneumonia for  
Only Four Days.

Was Serving With Machine Gun Com-  
pany, Second South Carolina In-  
fantry—Was Paraphraser  
on Columbia State.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 20.—Sergeant Robert E. Gonzales, of the machine gun company, Second South Carolina infantry, son of W. E. Gonzales, United States minister to Cuba, died at the Baz Hospital, Fort Bliss, of pneumonia, after an illness of four days. Prior to his enlistment as a private last June, Gonzales was a paraphraser on the Columbia State. His writings were extensively copied. He was 23 years old.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 20.—Robert E. Gonzales, prior to his enlistment as a private in the second South Carolina Regiment, with the National Guard, was mobilized for Federal service last June, for a number of years was connected with the Columbia State, writing most of the editorial paragraphs. He was 23 years old and a native of Columbia. His parents and one sister survive him.

Minister Gonzales is understood to be on his way from Havana to El Paso. The funeral will be conducted with military honors.

#### SIX DEATHS WITHIN TWO DAYS CAUSED BY PNEUMONIA

Deming, N. M., Dec. 20.—Six deaths have occurred here during the past two days from pneumonia. These deaths followed the "blitz" made by the National Guard brigade encamped here during which temperatures dropped suddenly and caused much sickness among the soldiers, according to hospital staff officers.

#### BRITISH GOVERNMENT WANTS FULL CONTROL OVER SHIPPING

This is Given as Premier's Statement  
That it Will be "Nationalized."

New York, Dec. 20.—A desire of the British government to have complete control over the shipping of the United Kingdom for the exclusive benefit of the allied armies and the great civilian population of the allied countries is the reason behind the statement of Premier Lloyd-George that the shipping of Great Britain will be "nationalized," according to leading British shipping men here.

For some time, one of the representative steamship men and a native of British vessels have had about one-third of their cargo space commandeered for grain. This space, he said, had been increased and now the New York agent has only one-third of his ships available to private shippers.

The same authority said that it was his belief that under the proposed new regulations even more space would be controlled by the government by regulations requiring that all cargo be officially designated. Destination of cargo will mean that shipping in British bottoms of any commodity other than that necessary for maintenance of army and civil life will be forbidden.

It is also deemed not unlikely that British ships now engaged in trade between neutral countries will be called upon to take their place in the line of ships engaged in carrying supplies to Great Britain and her allies.

No serious contention appears to be given to the suggestion that British ships will be heavier armed than the defense guns astern already approved by the United States in connection with the status as merchant men.

#### REPLY TO PEACE NOTE IS EXPECTED BEFORE CHRISTMAS

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mann-Hollweg, the German imperial chancellor, in a secret conference with the party leaders preceding his announcement of Germany's peace offer in the reichstag, was given full power to conduct peace negotiations without further consultation even with the party leaders. "The chancellor," says the dispatch, "refused point blank to give the leaders any detailed particulars of his peace terms, although he stated bluntly that the terms would not take any consideration of the various expressed wishes of the numerous parties within the empire. When the leaders objected to granting the chancellor's demands for full power to negotiate, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg countered with the statement that he would resign forthwith unless his demands were met.

#### SHEPPARD PROHIBITION BILL IS NOT VOTED ON

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out of the possession of the Senate," said Senator Reed, "legislative business then will resolve itself to grabbing and running. Under these circumstances, the man who can grab the most and run the fastest would be the greatest statesman. If we are proceeding under Marquis of Queensbury rules, it is time we know it."

Senator Ashurst declared he was not disturbed by Mr. Reed's attack. He declared if Senator Reed were fair about the prohibition bill he would allow it to come to a vote.

"The saloon lost out in Arizona and elsewhere," he said, "by its tactics as these. It committed suicide when it spewed the slime of politics like this on itself."

As he concluded the Arizona senator walked slowly through the aisle waving the bill over his head and restored it to the clerk's desk.

The debate which followed took on the nature of a filibuster.

#### Don't get up at night. Drink the celebra- ted Sheppard Mineral Water. Positively guar- anteed by money-back offer. Tastes fine costs a trifle. Delivered anywhere by Wilmington Agents, Elvington's Pharmacy Cor. 2nd and Princess Streets. Phone them

### CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED

Special Attorney J. A. McNorton Says  
Aggressive Action Will be Taken  
to Collect "Back Taxes."

That a more aggressive campaign for the collection of the \$30,000 worth of back taxes due the county will be inaugurated at once, was the statement made last night by J. A. McNorton, Esq., special county attorney for the collection of "Back Taxes." Mr. McNorton, who was appointed to the foregoing position by the Board of County Commissioners last February, states that Claude C. Cashwell, Esq., will be associated with him in this work and that it is hoped to make a very good showing in the way of collections within the next three months.

Mr. McNorton points out that some of this \$30,000 worth of back taxes runs as far back as 1870, that it has accumulated and accumulated year after year through the failure of the people to pay their current obligations to the county in the way of taxes, and that as a result of the long period during which the taxes were allowed to gradually grow larger, the property on which it is due, has frequently changed hands several times.

The large aggregate sum is made up of amounts all the way from the tiny pittance of 70 cents to \$500. Many of the claims for back taxes against individuals amount to up in the hundreds of dollars, however.

No special and sustained effort to collect the back taxes was made, Mr. McNorton states, until last February when the matter was placed in his hands. Since that time he says he has collected a little more than \$4,000, although the total sum outstanding remains practically unchanged owing to the fact that the current taxes for 1915, or the past year, ending November 30, to an aggregate amount of about \$4,000 were permitted to go uncollected.

#### Suits Started.

Within the past two months, Mr. McNorton has started six or eight suits against delinquent taxpayers, and at the last term of court got a judgment for \$490 in one case. Four or five suits are now pending, while more are in contemplation.

He states that L. Clayton Grant, Esq., representative-elect to the Legislature, is right in his contention that the back taxes should be collected, but that the work in connection with the filing of the complaints is considerable as it involves the hunting up the titles in a large number of cases where the property has changed hands. It also involves the very laborious and onerous operation of digging through old and musty tomes as far back as 1870.

In conclusion, Mr. McNorton stated that he and his associate are now prepared to give the matter practically their undivided attention and are determined to collect the entire \$30,000 owing the county at the earliest possible moment.

#### ACTED ON ORDERS OF GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Continued From Page One.  
Japanese, Crowley's reports showed, the witness said, had automobile stations to relay any information they secured.

According to Von Schack, Crowley asserted also that the Japanese cruiser Idzumo, cruised off the California coast, outside the three mile limit, would relay to wireless stations in Canada information sent from the portable stations operated by the Japanese on land.

Von Schack testified a protest had been made to Rear Admiral Pond, then supervisor of the 12th naval district, another protest to the State Department. This was in 1915. The vice consul denied that Crowley or any one else had been hired to do any dynamiting.

### QUEEN OF SWEDEN ILL



The condition of Queen Victoria of Sweden has grown steadily worse in the last week, says a dispatch from Stockholm to the London Morning Post. The report says the Queen's temperature "has risen slightly; there is increased catarrh in the lungs." The Queen is the sister of the Grand Duke of Baden. She is 64 years old and the mother of three sons.

# What Shall I Give?

No thought that you can conjure up of what to give for Christmas will serve to settle the doubt as satisfactorily as a little journey through these varied, helpful and appropriate holiday stocks, for in them lies the happy solution for every problem, large and small. Even with no thought in mind of purchasing we shall be glad to have you come and see the store in all the beauty of its holiday decorations. So for once and all you can safely dismiss the question of the proper gift to make—it is certainly here somewhere, and waiting to solve the question to your utmost pleasure. The store of a thousand gift suggestions is ready for you—splendidly ready!

## Christmas Sale of Men's Clothing

Hundreds of Suits and Overcoats now reduced for the Holiday Sale. Every suit strictly all wool and guaranteed to give absolute satisfaction.

- Men's All Wool Worsteds Suits, Venetian lined, at \$8.95.
- Men's \$15.00 All Wool Serge and Worsteds Suits; best lining, at \$11.50.
- Men's \$16.50 All Wool Serge, Worsteds and Cassimere Suits, at \$13.75.
- Men's \$17.50 Heavy Weight Worsteds Suits, at \$15.95.
- Men's Long Black Thibet Overcoats at \$5.95
- Men's \$12.50 Balmacaan Overcoats, at \$9.95
- Men's \$12.50 Long Black Overcoats, at \$9.95
- Boys' Suits and Coats, all reduced.

## Christmas Sale, Ladies' Suits and Coats

- Ladies' \$10.00 Serge Coat Suits, Velvet trimmed, at \$6.95.
- Ladies' \$20.00 Poplin and Gaberdine Suits, Satin lined, at \$13.75.
- Ladies' \$25.00 Broadcloth, Gaberdine and Poplin Suits; Satin lined; Velvet or Fur trimmed, at \$16.95.
- \$27.50 Broadcloth and Velour Coat Suits, at \$18.50.
- Ladies' \$6.00 and \$6.50 Long Coats; Plain or Mixed colors, at \$4.98.
- Ladies' \$10.00 Coats, all the plain and fancy Mixed Shades, at \$8.95.
- Ladies' \$15.00 Coats, now reduced to \$12.50
- Ladies' \$20.00 Coats, now reduced to \$16.95
- Ladies' \$25.00 Coats, now reduced to \$21.50

## Bed Room Slippers

All the best styles and in very conceivable color. Bed Room Slippers are an old Christmas Gift article, but is just as appreciative today as ever.

Every mother's son and every mother's daughter wants them.

Ladies' Slippers priced . . . . . \$5c to \$1.75.  
Men's Slippers, priced . . . . . \$1.50  
Children's Slippers, priced . . . . . \$5c to \$1.25

## Children's Sweeters and Caps

We have just received another shipment from our early orders, and these Sweeters are now worth about 75 % more than when our order was placed, so that when we say another shipment from our early purchasers at old prices—it spells "Bargain." They won't last long. Come early. Sweeters, priced 98c and \$1.48  
Caps . . . . . 25c and 48c

## NAROBIA GUARANTEED FURS

In Black, Brown and Gray. Single pieces or sets, make practical gifts, and the quality is backed up by our absolute guarantee of satisfaction . . . . . \$5.95 to \$69.00

## Belk-Williams Co.

### TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S NOTES TO BELLEGERENTS

Continued From Page One.  
instrumentality. One way will be as acceptable to him as another if only the great object he has in mind be attained.

#### Both Sides Have Same Purpose.

"He takes the liberty of calling attention to the fact that the objects which the statesmen of the belligerents on both sides have in mind in this war are virtually the same, as stated in general terms to their own people and to the world. Each side desires to make the rights and privileges of weak peoples and small states as secure against aggression or denial in this war as the rights and privileges of the great and powerful states now at war. Each wishes itself to be made secure in the future, along with all other nations and peoples, against the recurrence of wars like this and against aggression of selfish interference of any kind. Each would be jealous of the formation of any more rival leagues to preserve an uncertain balance of power amidst multiplying suspicions, and each is ready to consider the formation of league of nations to insure peace and justice throughout the world. Before that final step can be taken, however, each deems it necessary first to settle the issues of the present war upon terms which will certainly safeguard the independence, the territorial integrity and the political and commercial freedom of the nations involved.

#### Interested in Lasting Peace.

"In the measures to be taken to secure the future peace of the world, the people and government of the United States are as vitally and as directly interested as the governments now at war. Their interests, moreover, in the means to be adopted to relieve the smaller and weaker peoples of the world of the peril of wrong and violence is as quick and ardent as that of any other people or government. They stand ready, and even eager, to co-operate in the accomplishment of these ends, when the war is over, with every man, woman and child of the world, and with every resource at their command. But the war must first be concluded. The terms upon which it is to be concluded they are not at liberty to suggest; but the President does feel that it is his right and his duty to point out their intimate interest in its conclusion lest it should presently be too late to accomplish the greater things which lie beyond its conclusion, lest the situation of neutral nations, now exceedingly hard to endure, be rendered altogether intolerable, and lest, more than all, an injury be done civilization itself, which can never be atoned for or repaired.

#### Fuels Suggestion is Justified.

"The President, therefore, feels altogether justified in suggesting an immediate opportunity for a comparison of views as to the terms which must precede those ultimate arrangements for the peace of the world, which all desire and in which the neutral nations as well as those at war are ready to play their full responsible part. If the contest must continue to proceed towards undimmed ends by slow attrition until the one group of belligerents or the other is exhausted, if million after million of human lives must continue to be offered up until, on which side or the other there are no more to offer, if resentments must be kindled that can never cool and despairs engendered from which there can be no recovery, hopes of peace and of the willing concert of free peoples will be rendered vain and idle.

#### Entire World Affected.

"The life of the entire world has been profoundly affected. Every part of the great family of mankind has felt the burden and terror of this unprecedented contest of arms. No nation in

the civilized world can be said in truth to stand outside its influence or to be safe against its disturbing effects. And yet the concrete objects for which it is being waged have never been definitely stated.

"The leaders of the several belligerents have, as has been said, stated those objects in general terms. But, stated in general terms, they seem the same on both sides. Never yet have the authoritative spokesmen of either side avowed the precise objects which would, if attained, satisfy them and their people that the war had been fought out. The world has been left to conjecture what definite results, what actual exchange of guarantees, what political or territorial changes or readjustments, what stage of military success ever would bring the war to an end.

#### Might Clear Way for Conference.

"It may be that peace is nearer than we know; that the terms which the belligerents on the one side and on the other have in mind are so irreconcilable as some have feared; that an interchange of views would clear the way at least for conference and make the permanent concord of the nations a hope of the immediate future, a concert of nations immediately practicable.

#### Not Proposing Peace.

"The President is not proposing peace, he is not offering mediation. He is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn the neutral nations with the belligerents, how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind longs with an intense and increasing longing. He believes that the spirit in which he speaks and the objects which he seeks will be understood by all concerned, and he confidently hopes for a response which will bring a new light into the affairs of the world."

#### The Nearest Parallel

The nearest parallel in world history for President Wilson's action was President Roosevelt's move in 1905 to end the war between Russia and Japan. But in that case the President had been assured that his proposal would not be disagreeable to either of the belligerents and curiously enough it was through Emperor William of Germany that the preliminary sounding crystallized into the suggestion that President Roosevelt take the steps. Before that time President Roosevelt had conferred with the Russian and Japanese diplomats here, the American ambassador to Russia had had conversations with the foreign minister and the American ambassador to Japan had conferred with the Japanese foreign minister.

#### Had Long Contemplated Move

Those officials who would discuss the notes thought it worthy of attention that the President, after saying his action had long been in mind, added: "The President can only beg that his suggestion be considered entirely on its own merits and as if it had been made in other circumstances."

#### Precise Objects Never Stated.

"Never yet," he says, "have the authoritative spokesmen, of either side, avowed the precise objects which would, if attained, satisfy them and their people that the war had been fought out. The world has been left to conjecture what definite results, what actual exchange of guarantees,

what political or territorial changes or readjustments, what stage of military success even, would bring the war to an end."

"It may be," continues the note, "that peace is nearer than we know; that the terms which the belligerents on the one side and on the other would deem it necessary to insist upon are not so irreconcilable as some have feared; that an interchange of views would clear the way at least for conference and make the permanent concord of the nations a hope of the immediate future, a concert of nations immediately practicable."

The fact that the President asks first only a clarification of terms is taken as indicating that he is not expecting an immediate conclusion.

"Just when the note was finished has not been disclosed but it is known that it went to the cables yesterday. On Monday the higher officials of the State Department were taken into the President's confidence and the text was sent to the public printer to make copies for the diplomatic corps. The completion of the note on Monday and its dispatch Tuesday indicate that it was sent regardless of anything that Premier Lloyd-George might say. Officials expect the note to be received with general favor in Germany but many believe the real test will come with its arrival in the Entente countries where many influential persons have feared and sought to prevent any American intervention until the military situation changed.

#### Would Agree to Mediation.

While German officials are thoroughly understood that President Wilson made

it clear that he was not in any sense offering mediation to the warring governments, it was declared that should the negotiations reach that stage, Germany, being anxious to have the peace of Europe restored, willingly would agree to such procedure. Neither does it make any difference to Germany it is said, whether the conference is composed of representatives of all the belligerents, or just the coalitions. So far as Germany is concerned the view held here is that she would be perfectly willing that a committee of three, formed of a representative of the Central Powers, a representative of the Entente and a representative of the United States, should hold preliminary discussions. The main idea of Germany and her allies is to get each set of belligerents into direct personal communication with the other. The method is considered of secondary importance.

The view prevails in German quarters that all the belligerents will make some definite statement in reply to the note of the American communication. It is felt, calls for replies, far more definite than mere acknowledgments of receipt. Count von Bernstorff may discuss the situation with secretary Lansing some time tomorrow.

#### RUSSIAN BELIEVED VICTIM OF U-BOAT

Continued From Page One.  
it has since sunk, according to unofficial reports.

"The nine survivors from captured boats suffered great hardships from exposure and difficulty in keeping on overturned boat before being rescued. Informed Russian not admiralty character. Affidavits by mail."

Christmas Slippers at Peterson & Rulfs, for the whole family. d15.17.15.21

### SUGGESTS AN EXPRESSION OF VIEWS AT EARLY DATE

Continued From Page One.  
of President Wilson would be acceptable to the Entente powers.

British Embassy Viceroy Surprised  
British embassy officials declared they were utterly taken by surprise, were wholly unable to explain it, and emphatic in their statement that no changes whatever had passed through the office of the president.

The hope of the German powers that President Wilson would intercede in some way has long been well known and has been conveyed in various ways to the White House. The attitude of the Entente Allies, as expressed in their statements, and certainly until recently in official advices to the American gov-

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