

BRITISH LINER PERSIA TORPEDOED AND SUNK

McNeely, of North Carolina, U. S. Consul at Aden On Board Fated Ship

All On Board Are Reported to Have Been Lost— Rescued Carried to Alexandria.

Dispatch, 2nd. British liner Persia with 160 crew and a crew of 250 to 300 by an unidentified submarine at 10 o'clock Thursday afternoon on the island of Crete, in the east-Mediterranean. Messages received from various sources say that all on board were lost. Robert Ney McNeely, of Monroe, N. C., Consul at Aden, and Robert McNeely, of Boston, were on the liner.

The Persia virtually was sunk by the Lusitania. Four boats are reported to have got away from the vessel, each capable of carrying several persons, but it is not known whether they were full.

Some of the rescued were picked up by a boat bound for Alexandria, where they are expected today.

Some first-class passengers and children, boarded the Persia at London December 18. At Marseilles, the vessel was carrying 231 including 87 women and children. A number of the passengers embarking at London landed at Gibraltar, Marseilles and Malta. However, an official report given out by the Peninsular & Northern Line, owners of the Persia, that after deducting the passengers leaving the ship at various ports of call, about 160 were on board when the vessel was sunk.

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Effort is being made by Consul Robert P. Skinner, at Aden, to get some information from Robert Ney McNeely, American Consul at Aden and two other Americans known to be on the Persia.

One of the latter is believed to have disembarked at Gibraltar. The British Admiralty informed him that it had no information regarding the fate of the passengers. Mr. Skinner sent a telegram to the American Consul at Alexandria requesting that he ascertain the fate of Consul McNeely, and the other Americans.

McNeely sailed from New York for England on November 27, 1914, on the Holland-American liner Ryn-

on his way to take his first post. Mr. Skinner advised that the young man already had had passage on the Persia.

Persia is the latest of several to be sunk by submarines in the eastern Mediterranean, through her course to the Suez Canal from Malta. On December 15, the French liner Ville de France was sent to the bottom off the island of Crete by a submarine according to British officials.

Robert Ney McNeely, United States Consul to Aden Arabia, was born November 11, 1883, in Jackson township, near the historic settlement of Waxhaw. His birthplace is near that of Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States. Ney McNeely was the son of W. R. McNeely, one of the county's prominent citizens. He was the third son of a family of 11, 10 sons and one daughter. He entered the State University in 1905, a year in the undergraduate department and a second in the Law School, obtaining his license in 1907. Mr. McNeely was in the Legislature in 1909 and he went to the State Senate in 1915. He is a nephew of Rev. George Belk, the noted Presbyterian evangelist.

Robert Ney McNeely practiced law six years in Monroe after leaving the State University and built up an extensive practice. He rose rapidly in public favor and in 1908 was elected to represent this county in the Legislature of 1909. In 1915 he went to the State Senate. He was appointed Consul October 18 last and assigned to Aden.

McNeely Had No Fear of Submarines.

Correspondence, 1st, to the Observer.

presence on the torpedoed Persia.

Robert McNeely, the young

MORGANTON MAY NOW HAVE FINE NEW HOTEL.

Real Proposition Submitted— Stock Being Subscribed.

Our fellow townsman Geo. A. Miller, representing Longest & Tessier, architects and contractors of Greensboro, who in turn represent New York bonding interests, has submitted to the citizens of Morganton a proposition for building a new hotel here which has met with the approval of a committee of our citizens.

Subscriptions to the amount of some ten or twelve thousand dollars to the stock of the proposed company were very quickly secured. It is expected that the balance of the stock will be subscribed within the next two or three days. The proposition is about as follows: Mr. Miller representing the interests above referred to proposes to furnish twenty thousand dollars of bond money; a lessee who will lease the hotel for ten years at a rental of ten per cent, the hotel costing forty thousand dollars, twenty thousand dollars of which is to be subscribed locally. Mr. Miller's concern proposes to build and even furnish the hotel complete, at which time it will be turned over to the stockholders. The subscriptions are to be paid at intervals along during the process of building. It is proposed to have the hotel ready for occupancy within six months after the ground is broken.

The whole matter representing the Morganton interest will be placed in the hands of a committee who will act for the stockholders. A site for the hotel will be chosen by the stockholders or their duly appointed committee after the twenty thousand dollars of stock money has been subscribed. Details of the whole plan will be worked out to the satisfaction of both parties concerned and of course on a basis satisfactory to the lessee.

The hotel building is to be of absolute fire proof construction containing not less than fifty rooms and with not less than half of them with bath. Proper provision is also to be made to take care of the large tourist trade which is expected to come the way of Morganton in the near future. Now let our citizens rise to the occasion.

Organization of Patton School Students.

For several years there has been some talk of having a re-union of those who attended school under Rev. R. L. Patton during the many years of his teaching. Last Saturday night a number of his old students met in the Town Hall and organized with A. C. Kerley as temporary president and Miss Beatrice Cobb as temporary secretary. The first Monday of next August will be forty years from the day Mr. Patton opened his first school at Table Rock. During his life he taught at Table Rock, the Globe, Booneville, Amherst, Glen Alpine M. F. and Morganton. All those who went to school to him at either place will be invited to attend a re-union which will be held in Morganton on the first Monday of next August.

During these many years a large number of boys and girls from various sections of the State were his pupils and it is desired that each one who sees this article send his name and address, and the names and addresses of all others whom he might know, to the president or secretary. So far as possible letters will be sent out later to every old student whose name and address can be found. It is hoped that hundreds will be able to attend this re-union and spend a pleasant day and night. A program will be arranged that should be interesting to all of them.

The president has appointed the following committee to aid in working up the meeting: Rev. Hight C. Moore, editor of the Biblical Recorder, Luther S. Cannon, Chief Clerk, Pension Bureau, Washington, D. C., A. T. Allen, superintendent of the Salisbury city schools, and at present vice-president of the North Carolina Teachers' Association, Frank Edmonson, County Superintendent of Schools, Avery county, Mrs. R. L. Moore, wife of President Moore of Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N. C., and Mrs. W. H. Reddish, wife of Rev. Mr. Reddish, of the First Baptist church, Wadesboro, N. C.

Mrs. Carl Larsen and little son, Carl, Jr., accompanied by Master Junius Wall, returned December 22 to their home in Hoboken, N. J., after having spent several months with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Wall.

Congress Reopens

Little Accomplished First Day— Number of Bills Introduced Relating to War—Attack On Mexican Policy Begun in Senate Wednesday—Webb's Prohibition Bill.

Washington Dispatch, 4th.

With the Senate in session hardly 10 minutes and the House only a little more than two hours, Congress accomplished comparatively little in its first business day of the year today, and the expected attack of the minority on the Administration's foreign policy did not develop.

Senator Fall, Republican, of New Mexico, has ready a resolution calling on President Wilson to inform the Senate to what Government it is proposed to accredit Henry Pratcher Fletcher, whose nomination as Ambassador to Mexico is now before the Senate.

This resolution will be introduced tomorrow and will very probably be made the vehicle of a general Republican attack, not on Mr. Fletcher, but upon the Administration's Mexican policy.

Among the hundreds of other bills and discussions introduced in the House today were measures to extend the thanks of Congress to Henry Ford for his peace mission, to prevent clearance from American ports of ships carrying both passengers and munitions of war, to establish a United States commission for enduring peace which might act as intermediary between warring nations, to ask President Wilson for names of disloyal neutralized citizens referred to in the President's last message to Congress and to investigate the rise in gasoline prices. All were referred to committees. The Administration rural credits bill was introduced today in the House and will be introduced in the Senate tomorrow.

Webb Introduces Prohibition Bill.

Washington Dispatch, 4th.

Representative Webb today introduced his resolution calling for National prohibition, and the act marked formally the beginning of the fight around this subject before Congress. With the introduction of a bill for prohibition in the District of Columbia is expected to come immediate interest, since discussion of such a proposal has created a concern in many quarters of the Capital, the groups which gather at lunch times, being engaged in earnest consideration of what they term "our rights" in such matters.

SAYS KAISER HAS CANCER OF THROAT.

Paris Newspaper, Despite Denials, Claims He No Longer Can Speak.

Paris Dispatch, 4th.

The Martin affirms, notwithstanding denials, that the German emperor is suffering from cancer of the throat and is no longer able to speak.

"In February, 1911," according to the Martin, "the doctors were considering whether it was necessary to remove the entire larynx in order to stay the progress of the disease. They raised the question as to whether the emperor would be able to speak if such an operation was performed. The leading specialists of every capital in Europe were consulted. It was learned that an eminent surgeon of Paris had, with an artificial larynx and a breathing tube opened into the trachea, restored the power of speech to cancerous patients who had undergone total ablation of the affected organs."

"This doctor, whose name the Martin withholds for reasons of professional etiquette, was asked to go to Berlin by the German ambassador. He was offered 100,400 francs and all his expenses and was requested to bring with him a patient who had been fitted with the apparatus, so that the emperor himself might see if he was able to speak."

"Meanwhile, as a result of a minor operation with a bistoury and a few weeks' absolute rest, the emperor's condition improved as is often the case in this disease, the progress of which is implacable but slow. It is another operation of this kind which has just been performed. But it is only palliative. The German emperor must either make up his mind to complete removal of the larynx or be stifled by the growth."

"This explains why the emperor went neither to Warsaw, Constantinople nor Brussels."

BRITISH STEAMSHIP GLENGYLE SUNK IN MEDITERRANEAN.

One of the Largest Vessels Yet Sunk in That Quarter—Over a Hundred Survivors and Few Lives Lost.

London Dispatch, 3rd.

The British steamship Glengyle has been sunk. There are about one hundred survivors.

The Glengyle sailed from Shanghai for London November 25. She was last reported at Singapore on December 6. Her route would take her thru the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean and it may be assumed that she was sunk in the Mediterranean.

The Glengyle was one of the largest steamships which have been sunk since the activity of submarines in the Mediterranean became pronounced. Her gross tonnage was 9,395. She was owned by the Glen Steamship Line of Glasgow and was the largest steamship of that line.

The Glengyle has been in service only a comparatively short time, having been built at Newcastle in 1904. She was 500 feet long, 62 feet beam and 34 feet deep. Her master was Captain Webster.

GLEN ALPINE NEWS.

Correspondence of The News-Herald.

Christmas and New Year have past and we are at the beginning of a new era in our lives. Resolutions have been made and hope those that are for our betterment and uplift may be kept. Our little town has been quiet and nothing so far has occurred to mar our peace. School resumed work today and all seemed resolved with increased interest and zest to make the balance of the session the best in its history.

Old "Uncle Anthony Corpening," an old landmark of the colored race, was found dead in his home. "Uncle Anthony" was supposed to be at his death in his 107th year. He was a familiar figure in our town, harmless, inoffensive old time dorky, and well liked by "his white folks."

Capt. John Leonard, of the Southern railway, has bought the Ed Sigmon property here and will make improvements.

Rev. Mr. Sherman, a native Advent preacher, lost his house by fire last night. Mrs. Sherman, his wife, heard a parrot screaming and it awoke her in time to get herself and Mr. Sherman out. Mrs. Sherman tried to save the parrot but failed as the fire was too far advanced. The parrot was burned up and Mrs. Sherman badly burned. The house and contents is an entire loss. Mr. Sherman lived on what is known as the Lucy Happold place near here, having bought it some few years ago. Mr. Sherman is a good citizen and this loss will be seriously felt by him. So far as is known there was no insurance.

The Brookford cotton mill at Hickory was sold yesterday and bought by A. D. Juliard & Co. of New York, the principal stockholders, for \$302,450, the amount of the indebtedness.

A baby boy, apparently but a few weeks old, was found on the steps of H. G. Lippard's home at Woodleaf, Rowan county, Sunday night. No clue except a strange woman was seen in the neighborhood.

The Wilmington Dispatch, afternoon daily, has not passed into the hands of W. B. Cooper, as reported. It is taken over by a company composed of James Owen Reilly, Wm. E. Lawson and Thos. W. Davis.

Engineer John J. Clark of Asheville was killed, Fireman C. Knox Christopher of Asheville, was badly injured and several passengers sustained minor injuries when train No. 17, on the Murphy division, struck a rock-slide near Barker's creek, about 52 miles from Asheville, Sunday morning at 11.30 o'clock. The engine was turned completely over and the baggage car derailed, the other cars remaining on the track. Engineer Clark was caught under the engine. He had been on the road about 25 years and was a popular railroad man.

Governor Craig will spend next week in western Carolina with Asheville as headquarters visiting and personally inspecting the work being done by the State convicts in highway construction in cooperation with local authorities. These include especially those squads of convicts working on the Hickory Nut Gap link of the Charlotte-Asheville highway; the Ridgecrest end of the Asheville-Ridgecrest highway and the Madison county highway construction. Each of these has separate contracts with the State under legislative enactments for working convicts from the State's prison. There are about 150 convicts assigned to these three camps.

Governor Craig issued a strong statement relative to the North Carolina situation in the matter of the application of the new freight tariffs from Virginia and North Carolina points or origin into Southeastern territory, effective January 1st by order of the Inter-State Commerce Commission over the protest of the North Carolina Corporation Commission, in which he declares that North Carolina shippers are "getting it in the neck going and coming," and that unprecedented activity and development leave not the least bit of excuse for increased freight rates at this time such as the new schedules are found to contain. The Governor maintains that the 1914 depression has passed and that the business of the railroads has so increased that there is no warrant for the increase in freight rates. The rates also discriminate against North Carolina points in favor of Virginia cities.

Other Big Land Deals.

Mr. H. M. Conley has sold his farm in Linville township to the Western Carolina Power Co. for \$10,500, and Mr. I. N. McCall disposes of his two farms in that township to the same company for \$14,000.

Others selling their farms in Linville: Mrs. Mary Jarrett, \$4,000; Charlie Gibbs, \$7,500; A. H. Giles, \$12,000; A. H. Conley, \$10,000; E. P. Conley, \$8,000.

Other big deals in Linville are expected within the next few days.

Pretty Calendars.

The News-Herald is indebted to the First National Bank of Morganton, the Bank of Morganton, Dr. W. A. Leslie, Clinchfield Coal Co., Alpha Photo Engraving Co., Bingham Bros., roller makers, and the Mutual Benevolent Association of Durham for pretty calendars of 1916. They are all indeed works of art.

Miss Margaret Newland and her guest during the holidays, Miss Lessie Lemons, of San Angelo, Texas, have returned to Salem Academy to school. While here Miss Lemons was the recipient of much social attention. One of the most elaborate of the affairs given in her honor was a dance last Wednesday night by Mrs. Eck Abernethy.

Mrs. Joe Simpson and children, of Tuxedo, spent Christmas with Mrs. Simpson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Ward. They were accompanied home by Miss Lula Ward, for a few days' visit.

Miss Julia Albee, of Efland, is visiting Miss Lillie Morris.