

GERMAN BOMBS SHOWER DUNKIRK

Flot of Kaiser's Aeroplanes Make Aerial Attack On French Seaport Doing Much Damage

BUILDINGS WERE WRECKED

Fifteen Citizens Killed in Siege—All Aerial Assaults Made Escape From French Guns

London.—Four German aeroplanes have flown several times over the city of Dunkirk recently, dropping bombs as they went. Soldiers in the streets fired on the machines and one Taube seemed to be hit, but all got safely away.

The official returns of the casualties show that fifteen persons were killed and thirty-two wounded. The bombs were filled with shrapnel.

For half an hour the whole city cracked with rifle shots and bombs, which threw up dense clouds of black smoke. No sooner did one aeroplane seem to depart than another arrived. Buildings in all parts of the city were wrecked.

The first bomb fell on the fortifications, two more near the railway station and many others in different parts of the town and in the suburb of Rosendael and the districts of Coudekerque and Furnes. One child had an arm blown off and an old woman was killed outright.

The fifth aeroplane remained as sentry outside the town ready to attack any of the allies' aeroplanes that might seek to repel the air assaults.

BELGIANS FILE PROTEST

Belgian Minister At Washington Files Protest With United States Against Germany

Washington.—The Belgian minister filed with the state department a protest against the requisitioning by German military authorities in Belgium of merchandise worth about \$7,000,000 francs. He asserted that the German policy means "the ruin of industry in Belgium."

The protest set forth that the goods were not taken for use of Germany, and that consequently the seizure was in violation of the fourth Hague convention. The Belgian minister issued this statement: "The German authorities have put into requisition against a single receipt and without mentioning the value of the same, the following merchandise, to be awarded to Germany, and which belongs to private parties: In Antwerp, cotton for the value of 13,000,000 francs; rubber, 2,500,000; woolen, 6,000,000, and leather, 10,000,000 francs. In Ghent, cotton yarn, 8,000,000 francs; copper, 1,500,000; tool machine, 12,000,000 francs. In Duffel, nickel, 1,000,000 francs. In Malines, canned goods, \$2,500,000.

These measures are in opposition with the articles 46 and 52 of the fourth convention of The Hague, in accordance with which private property must be respected and requisition cannot be claimed otherwise than for the needs of the army of occupation. These measures involve the ruin of the industry in Belgium.

SHIPPING BILL REPORT

Secretary Redfield Recommends Merchant Shipping Bill Be Pushed Through

Washington.—Initiating the aggressive fight to be waged in congress for passage of the government ship purchase bill, to free American commerce from European war limitations, majority members of the senate commerce committee filed a report recommending the measure in vigorous terms and transmitting a commendatory letter from Secretary of Commerce Redfield.

The committee report, filed by Acting Chairman Fletcher, quoted the report submitted by Secretaries McAdoo and Redfield, showing enormous increases in ocean transportation rates since the war began and attendant falling off of ocean tonnage facilities. The committee predicted that enactment of the ship purchase bill would go far to relieve that situation.

France's New Aerial Fleet

New York.—France is building two great fleets of aircraft, armed with cannon, darts and bombs, with which to invade Germany in the spring, according to Pedro Chapa, a Mexican aviator, who arrived here from Europe on the Cunard liner Carpathia. Hundreds of armored biplanes, each carrying a small cannon and bombs, and numerous monoplanes, equipped with bombs and steel darts, will be ready to sweep across the German frontier when winter is past, Chapa said.

Grants Fifty-Five Pardons

Columbia, S. C.—Governor Blease granted clemency to fifty-five state prisoners. Twenty-eight were serving terms for homicide, seventeen having been sentenced originally to life imprisonment. Sixteen full pardons, twenty-four paroles and fifteen commutations are included in the list. The release of the forty men pardoned or paroled reduces the number of prisoners in the state penitentiary here, at the state farms, and in the county convict camps to 149. Governor Blease now has exercised clemency to 1,544.

First American Cotton Shipment

The Hague.—The American steamer A. A. Raven, which arrived at Rotterdam from Wilmington, N. C., with 5,000 bales of cotton, was the first vessel to reach a Dutch port since the outbreak of the war with a cotton consignment for Germany. The steamer was held up twenty-four hours in the English channel by British warships for examination of her papers. The freight charges for the Raven's cargo were \$10 a bale, which is five times the normal rate. This increase is due to the great war risks.

WARNS GREAT BRITAIN



WOODROW WILSON

President Wilson has warned Great Britain and the Allies in a vigorous note to the British nation that the rights of American shipping on the high seas must not be molested. The president's message has caused the greatest sensation in England since the receipt of President Cleveland's famous Venezuelan message twenty years ago.

BRITISH RAID ON ZEPPELINS

SEVEN BRITISH NAVAL SEAPLANES MAKE ATTACK ON GERMAN NAVAL BASE

Britons Lose One Man And Three Planes In An Attempt To Dig Out German Fleet

London.—Airmen of warring countries spent a busy Christmas holiday. While a solitary German flew over the Thames estuary and dropped a single bomb, which fell in a roadway and did no damage, a convoy of seven British navy seaplanes visited the German naval base at Cuxhaven and dropped bombs on ships and the gas works. All but one of the British airmen returned safely to the ships which conveyed them. Similar activity was displayed along the battle front, German airmen paying a surprise visit to Nancy; French aviators to Metz; British to Brussels and other Belgian towns occupied by the Germans and German airmen to Polish cities.

Assisted by light cruisers, destroyers and submarines, seven British navy airmen, piloting seaplanes, made a daring attack Christmas Day on the German naval base at Cuxhaven, at the mouth of the Elbe. Six of the airmen returned safely, but the seventh, Commander Hewlett, it is feared, has been lost.

The enterprise of the British navy in this attempt to "dig out" the German fleet brought about a battle between the most modern of war machines. The British squadron, including the light cruisers Arethusa and Undaunted, which have been engaged in previous exploits on the German coast, were attacked by Zeppelins, seaplanes and submarines.

By raid maneuvering the ships were able to avoid the submarines, while the Zeppelins found the fire of the cruisers too dangerous for them to keep up the fight. The German seaplanes dropped bombs, which, according to the British account, fell harmlessly into the sea. The Germans, however, claim to have hit two destroyers and their convoy.

WILSON MAKES APPEAL

President Urges Honest Shipments, So Contraband Problem Will Not Be Complicated

Washington.—President Wilson has appealed to American shippers of non-contraband not to permit contraband articles to be mixed with their cargoes. He said the United States could deal confidently with the problem of British detention of American ships only if supported by honest manifests.

The president's statement followed a discussion with his cabinet of the general shipping situation and of the protest sent to Great Britain against prolonged detention of American cargoes and other interference with American trade.

President Wilson Celebrates Birthday

Washington.—President Wilson celebrated his fifty-eighth birthday December 28. Congratulatory messages poured in from all parts of the United States and from foreign countries. No special observance of the anniversary was planned, and the president spent the day quietly with his family. President Wilson, it became known, plans to make several addresses on his return trip from the San Francisco exposition next spring, and his friends expect him to reply to attacks on his Mexican and other policies.

Destroyer Hits Rocks

St. Andrews, Scotland.—A British torpedo boat destroyer went ashore on the coast of Kingsbarns, six miles southeast of St. Andrews. Her crew was saved by lifeboats. The destroyer, steaming south from Aberdeen, to the Firth of Forth, in the darkness, and without shore lights, lost her bearings. After the rescue of a portion of her crew one of the lifeboats was stove in by the heavy sea and the remainder of the crew were saved by a second lifeboat only after considerable difficulty.

Miss Genevieve Clark To Wed

Washington.—Speaker Champ Clark and Mrs. Clark announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Genevieve, to James M. Thompson, editor of the New Orleans Item. The wedding will take place in the spring of early summer at the Clark home in Bowling Green. Miss Clark met Mr. Thompson in Baltimore during the 1912 Democratic convention, in which he was one of the leaders of the fight to nominate the speaker for president.

AMERICAN NOTE ALARMS BRITISH

English People and Press Greatly Agitated Over Official Note Of United States

THINK FRICTION MAY ENSUE

President Wilson's Message Of Warning Causes Greatest Sensation In England In Years

London.—The American note protesting against the British treatment of American commerce and insisting of an early improvement came as a complete surprise to the British public; as there had been virtually no intimation that any friction had arisen between the two governments.

Placards posted by the evening papers were given over exclusively to the American note, and the papers gave it a largest headlines they have given any news during the past month. Consequently the British people regard this as one of the most important occurrences of the whole war.

British Public Alarmed

The first impression of the public is that the note may create friction, and perhaps some unfriendly feeling, although the newspapers point out that it specifically states that the representations were made in a friendly spirit. The situation is comparable to that which arose at the time of the South African war, when neutral shippers began to send cargoes intended for the Transvaal republic to the neutral port of Delagoa Bay.

Even the war news was allotted a secondary place to the note in the news columns of the papers, although that coming from the Russian front was highly gratifying to the allies.

The Washington note could not have been dealt with had it arrived early, as Sir Edward Grey, secretary for foreign affairs, who was absent for the Christmas holidays, was not yet home when it came.

The foreign office, however, has constantly reiterated its regret at the delay to American ships, and high officials have expressed a desire to expedite examination of American cargoes as much as possible under the existing trying conditions.

Biggest Sensation In Years

Nothing of the kind since President Cleveland's Venezuelan message has produced such a sensation.

SLAVS CHECK AUSTRIANS

Russians Again Win Victories In Austria—French Aid British Make Gains

London.—There has been a slackening of the fighting in northern Poland between the lower Vistula and Pilica rivers, where the Russians have captured some German trenches, prisoners and guns—an indication, it is believed here, that the German frontal attack on the army guarding Warsaw has been definitely checked.

In southern Poland the Russians also record some successes, while in Galicia they apparently have inflicted a defeat on the Austrians almost as serious as that which Emperor Francis Joseph's troops suffered in Serbia.

Of the fighting in the west the German and French reports are in direct conflict. The French claim to have occupied the village of St. Georges, which is on the main road between Nieuport and Bruges and two miles from the former town. On the other hand the German report says: "We have gained some ground near Nieuport."

Heavy fighting is taking place in the Argonne and on the heights of the Meuse. The French reports apparently refer to later events than those recorded in Berlin, for Paris tells of the recapture of a trench which the German communication mentions as having been captured by the Germans. The French are investing Steinfach in upper Alsace.

News from Germany is coming slowly, as cable communication between England and Holland is dislocated by the storm and telegraph wires between Holland and Germany have been wrecked in many places.

With the close of the holidays the recruiting boom has recommenced in England. Large numbers enlisted.

Wilson Pushes His Program

Washington.—President Wilson expects his legislative program, the shipping, Philippine, conservation and appropriation bills to be passed at the present session of congress, and without an extra session. He has told callers that other proposed legislation had been met with predictions that it would be impossible to pass. The president said he expected the income of the government to exceed the expenditures during the fiscal year. He said he was taking no personal part in the fight over the immigration bill.

Creates Tariff Commission

Washington.—Bills to create a tariff board were introduced by Representative Mann of Illinois (Rep.) and Moss of Indiana (Dem.). They are practically alike. Norman E. Mack, former chairman of the Democratic national committee and now member for his state, commenting on the plan of Representative Mann, minority leader in the house, for a congressional tariff commission, made the statement that "the Democrats should go even further and name a tariff commission to take the tariff out of politics."

To Push Philippines Bill

Washington.—Neither President Wilson nor congressional leaders consider recent disturbances in the Philippines of sufficient importance to influence action on the pending Jones bill extending the Philippines a greater measure of self-government and hearings on the measure to be resumed by the senate Philippine committee will be hastened with a view to a favorable report by the middle of January. It is stated that the disorders will not be permitted to impede progress of the Jones bill.

SENATOR STONE



It is rumored in Washington that Senator Stone of Missouri is soon to succeed William J. Bryan as secretary of state.

M'ADOO SUMMONS BANKERS

SECRETARY OF TREASURY CALLS CONFERENCE OF PAN-AMERICAN FINANCIERS

President Wilson And Secretary Bryan Backing The Plan Which Will Bring America Closer

Washington.—The United States has invited all Central and South American nations to send their ministers of finance and leading bankers to Washington for a conference with treasury department officials and financiers of this country on financial and commercial problems confronting the two Americas as a result of the European war. Several of the countries already have accepted and the conference probably will be held next spring.

Invitations were sent formally through the embassies and legations here. The plan originated with Secretary McAdoo, but Secretary Bryan and President Wilson have taken an active interest in it. It has been suggested that congress be asked for an appropriation to defray expenses, but whether or not this is done the visitors will come as the guests of the United States. The state department has a contingent fund available for such a purpose.

Officials of the state, treasury and commerce departments expect the conference to prove an important step toward bringing the two American continents into closer commercial relationship. They believe that in the Pan-American movement lies the hope of South America for financial independence of Europe, and suggest the possibility of New York becoming at least a serious competitor with London for supremacy as a world's financial center.

FRANK GAINS POINT

Justice Lamar Has Certified To Writ Of Leo Frank Placing Case On Calendar

Atlanta.—If the Supreme court grants the appeal of Leo M. Frank from the denial of the writ of habeas corpus submitted to Judge Newman, which was certified by Justice Lamar of the Supreme bench, a long and tedious fight will again be launched for the life of the doomed man—this time in the federal courts.

Justice Lamar has given his certificate to the appeal. The case has now become a part of the calendar of the nation's highest tribunal, and it is anticipated will be argued within two months or less. This action of the Supreme court justice has created widespread speculation and interest among the thousands who have followed the legal ramifications of the Frank case.

Few War Changes Noted

London.—The battle lines in the east and west have undergone few changes in the past few days. French and German reports agree that the Germans have captured a section of trenches near Hellebreke, south of Ypres. The French assert that the Germans gave up trenches on the first line to the extent of about 800 or 900 yards in the Lens region, farther east, while unsuccessful demonstrations have been made from both sides at various points along the extended lines.

Moral Decay Bred In Disrespect

Albany, N. Y.—Warning of moral decadence if the spirit of lawless in all the American communities goes unchecked was a striking utterance in Gov. Charles S. Whitman's address recently. Increases of crime, he said, deserved the thoughtful attention of the legislature. "Disregard of law, impatience with legal and moral restraints, contempt for the judicial and executive ministers of justice are phenomena observable in all American communities and all classes," he added.

Prohibition Sudden Russia

Petrograd, via London.—The last appeal against Russia's prohibition decree failed when the councils of Petrograd and Moscow rejected a petition to authorize the recommencement of the sale of beer and light wines. The recent final order to discontinue the sale of all alcoholic drinks was issued with the reservation that the city councils should have the right to appeal for an authorization of the recommencement of the sale of three per cent beer and light wines.

Select Three Trade Commissioners

Washington.—President Wilson was understood to have decided tentatively on three members of the Federal Trade Commission. They are Joseph E. Davies, Commissioner of Corporations; Edward N. Hurley, president of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, and George Foster Peabody, a New York banker. Two others are to be selected. The three men chosen are all Democrats and if they are finally decided on, the other two will be Republicans or Progressives.

Mexican Political Situation

Washington.—Dispatches from the Brazilian minister in Mexico City, described the political situation as full of uncertainty. The minister referred to the lack of harmony between the several chiefs, but indicated that nothing alarming had developed and that good order was being preserved. From his own agents, also the state department was advised that friction existed between the Zapata and the Gutierrez-Villa factions, chiefly over Zapata's desire to execute many officers who had served with the federalists.

ANOTHER BRITISH BATTLESHIP SUNK

ENGLAND MOURNS LOSS OF LIVES OF CREW MORE THAN SHIP, WHICH WAS 15 YEARS OLD

WAS WORTH FIVE-MILLION

Part of Crew Picked Up and Brought Ashore.—Statement in Theatre of War.

London.—The destruction of the British battleship Formidable in the British Channel by a mine or a submarine boat, although one of those events Englishmen now realize must be expected so long as the British Navy is compelled to keep the seas, has caused widespread grief.

This is due not so much to the loss of the ship, which was 15 years old and cost about \$5,000,000, as it is for the men—about 600 in number—who went down with her. So far as known only 141 of the Formidable's crew of 750 were rescued. The British admiralty has not given the locality where the disaster occurred and declares it is unable to say whether the ship struck a mine or was torpedoed but as the British fleet again has been active in shelling German positions on the Belgian coast and as German submarines have been more and more using Zebruggo as a base, the inclination here is to believe that a submarine again has been successful in an attack.

Fighting in Flanders and Northern France has been confined largely to artillery engagements, except Bethuns, where the Germans claim they have taken a British trench. They admit, however, the loss of St. Georges, near the Belgian coast, which the Berlin official report says it was decided not to attempt to retake owing to high water.

In the Argonne region where the battle has been almost continuous for weeks past, the Germans have made a little progress as an offset to which, however, the French declare they have continued their advance in Upper Alsace.

Newspaper's View of Note

London.—The Saturday Review describes President Wilson's note protesting against the British attitude toward American shipping as "a document from a candid friend who just because he is a friend, can say things which between strangers would be regarded as having too rough an edge." The Review does not think it should be impossible for two governments who have no wish to find causes for taking the offensive, to reconcile their points of view. The position of a belligerent with respect to command of the sea, says this paper is different even when neutral governments are friends. But this position is determined absolutely by the fact that England has that command of the sea and "cannot surrender her right to use it for defeat of the enemy by any law."

Works in Orders President Gutierrez

Washington.—General Villa, in a telegram dated in Mexico City to his agency here, denied he has questioned the amnesty, proclamations of General Gutierrez. "I obey and respect the orders of President Gutierrez," Villa telegraphed. "I am his subordinate." Further details of fighting between troops of General Carranza and Villa near Tampico were received in official dispatches to the Carranza agency. "General Gonzales administered a decisive defeat to the Villalistas at Rodriguez."

Two Stores Burn

Concord.—The feed store of Charles Ford and the grocery store of A. M. Freeze at Midway, the new village between Glass and Kannapolis on the Kannapolis road, were destroyed by fire recently. The fire is supposed to have originated in Mr. Ford's feed store from a lamp explosion. Mr. Ford was in the store to get some feed for a horse a short time before the fire started and left a lamp burning there.

COMING EVENTS

Annual Live Stock Meeting, Statesville—January 19-21, 1915.

TAR HEEL BREVITIES

Mr. T. C. Lee, of Monroe, shipped a turkey recently to Norfolk to be sold that was so large that purchasers could not be found in Monroe. The turkey weighed 35 pounds, and was so large that no pans nor stoves could be found in Monroe large enough to cook it in. The ordinary turkey crates were too small for it, so one was made to order.

William Ballew, exonerated for the killing of Herbert Smith was convicted for carrying concealed weapons.

A new roof and other improvement are being made on the Wake county court house.

A West Virginia negro was found dead in the public highway near Wilson. While in a drunken condition he had frozen to death.

Owing to dissatisfaction among the contestants regarding the awards the hill climb at Asheville was outlawed. The cold and inclement weather definitely postponed Wilson's community Christmas tree.

Governor Craig is spending a week or more in Asheville.

There have been nearly 800 marriage licenses issued during 1914. Raleigh is going to have two auto trucks for mail service.

Arthur B. VanBuren, a popular young Wilmington lawyer, died at his home recently.

The Young Woman's Christian Association of Winston-Salem has been chartered by the secretary of state.

A wrecked freight train near Hamlet delayed the Seaboard's crowded passenger traffic almost a full day recently.

Christmas day Mr. Allen Trexler, aged 78, and Mr. Jacob A. Randleman, aged 82, died at their homes in Salisbury.

Employees of the White Furniture Company of Mebane, gave the officers a handsome present showing their appreciation for 12 months steady employment.

Dr. J. T. Johnson, aged 79, a Confederate veteran of Hickeroy, died a few days ago of pneumonia.

Congressman Burger's mother-in-law, Mrs. Caroline H. Hawkins, died at Hendersonville a few days ago.

BUILD BIG BRANCH HOUSE

Morris & Company, Chicago Meat Packers, Will Erect Building For Work at Winston-Salem.

Winston-Salem.—Morris & Co., Chicago packers, are arranging to erect and equip an up-to-date branch house in this city. While the plans have not yet been perfected, it is stated that the building will be erected near the union station, will have a frontage of 51 feet on Fourth street, will extend along the Southern railway 100 feet and in the rear will have a width of 30 feet.

The building will be three stories high with a basement and will be constructed of red pressed brick, giving it a modern and handsome appearance. The plans are to be prepared with consideration for the character of the business of Morris & Co., providing ample cold storage capacity to take care of the business of the city.

F. S. Vernay, during his 11 years in this city has built up a business for Morris & Co., that has warranted the erection of a home for the local branch with an equipment that is not exceeded in point of size and modern equipment by any plant of similar character between Norfolk and Atlanta.

Adopt Unknown Child.

Asheville.—Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ford recently were presented with the little girl who was found on their doorstep during the early part of last summer, snugly wrapped in warm clothing and tucked in a large basket. They made application to adopt the child to Clerk of the Superior Court John H. Cathey and the latter granted them the permanent custody of the child, who has been christened Virginia May. The adoption of the little girl is probably the final development in an interesting case, which started with the finding of the child.

A systematic search has been made in the hope of learning the identity of the mother. But the search has been fruitless. Mr. and Mrs. Ford have no children.

1,000,000 More Pounds of Tobacco.

Kinston.—Probably another million pounds of tobacco will be sold in Kinston in January, according to estimates of tobaccoists. The season's sales to date have been 17,554,300 pounds, nearly as much as has been sold in any previous entire season. The sales have exceeded by three million pounds any estimate made before the opening of the market on September 1. The chamber of commerce had figured on only 14,000,000 pounds, which would have been well in excess of last year's total. In December 3,472,791 pounds have been sold in only 15 sales days. Practically all of the weed handled here has been grown in the territory rightful tributary to the market.

Two Fire Departments.

Winston-Salem.—Effective January 1, Winston-Salem has two paid fire departments. This was the announcement made recently by Fire Chief H. E. Nilsen. Company No. 1, which has heretofore been a voluntary department will be converted into a paid company, with eight men stationed at the quarters all the time. The conversion of this company into a paid department with full complement of men will make it possible to have a complete company of fire fighters to answer all calls.

Analyze Dairy Products.

Asheville.—In order that purchasers of cream and ice cream from cities other than Asheville may see in what respects Asheville products of this kind are superior and where they excel, the health officer has ordered that analyses of the butterfat of the product received from out-of-town points be made daily. The results of the investigations will be published each month in the bulletin issued by the health department. Heretofore only the analyses of the cream and ice cream made in Buncombe county have been given out from the health department's office. Such a system, Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, the health officer, believes is unfair to the local dealers in that it makes them furnish a product which will stand the light of publicity and allow their out-of-town competitors to sell cream and ice cream here concerning whose butterfat the public is not advised. The announcement has been received with jubilation among the dairymen of Buncombe county.

Burns With Loss of \$15,000.

Asheville.—The handsome country home of Dr. T. P. Chesborough, two miles from this city, on the Swannanoa river, was destroyed by fire at an early hour one morning recently, with a loss of \$15,000, one-half of which is covered by insurance. Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Matthews, who were in the house at the time that the blaze was discovered, had narrow escapes, being able to make their way from the building with difficulty clad only in their night clothes. They were awakened by the sound of the roof falling in. No idea is entertained as to the origin of the flames.

Grand Lodge Meets January 19.

The North Carolina Grand Lodge of Masons will meet in Raleigh on Jan. 19. The meeting time of the Grand Lodge was formerly earlier in January, but at the last meeting a code was adopted which provided that the body should meet on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in January.

Must Wrap Foodstuffs.

Asheville.—Local dealers, who dispose of foodstuffs which are not peeled, washed or cooked by the purchaser have been advised by Health Officer Carl V. Reynolds that the law providing that such articles shall be well wrapped before they leave the place of business of the salesman will be rigidly enforced after the first of the year. The law has been on the statute books for the past several years, but never has been rigidly enforced and no arrests have ever been made.

Does Big Business.

Wilmington.—The Wilmington post-office did itself proud in the handling of Christmas mail, breaking a number of good records and having reason to feel good over its holiday business, rushing as it was. During Christmas week 80,000 parcels passed through the office outward bound—more than 1,000 sacks. Letters and postcards in addition to the parcels, numbered 100,000, and besides all this the incoming mail was fully as large or larger. In spite of such the work was done on time and satisfactorily.

No Hard Times in Newbern.

Newbern.—There are no hard times in Newbern. This is a fact that is undisputed and as much as the pessimist may rave, there is ample evidence at hand to prove that there has been more money in circulation in Newbern and Craven county during the past four weeks than there was during the same period last year. The farmers who had cotton laid in many cases disposed of this and have put the money in circulation. Others have stored their cotton and secured warehouse receipts for it.

LARGE DIVIDENDS PAID BY BANKS

CHARLOTTE BANKS DISTRIBUTE \$108,500 IN THE WAY OF DIVIDENDS.

A GOOD SHOWING IS MADE

Institutions Have Had Remarkably Successful Year Despite Much Restricted Trading.

Charlotte.—Whatever feeling of restricted operations there is or has been experienced in the realm of finance, it will not be manifest early in January when the hundreds of shareholders in the banks of Charlotte will receive their usual dividend checks, the disbursement from this source from the eight banking institutions of Charlotte amounting to \$108,500. Checks are sent out from each of the banks January 1.

That the banks of the city are able to make this showing is considered remarkable. The financial houses of Charlotte have, of course, suffered some along with all other lines of business as a result of the war in Europe, but they have not fallen under such times as to force a retrenchment in dividends. The shareholders will get just as much profit from their holdings in Charlotte banks this January as they did last year when there was no dream of distant trouble nor indication of forthcoming depression.

Asked about conditions that have made possible such a showing with their institutions during the past year, local bankers express the conviction that the situation is sound and that there is nothing organically wrong. It is of course true that the banks here have suffered or shared in the loss sustained on account of the low price of cotton and this has effected in some measure the deposits, as the withdrawal of \$1,000,000 which represents the loss sustained by Mecklenburg farmers would undoubtedly make business has remained good.

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