

The Asheville Gazette News.

WEATHER FORECAST: FAIR AND WARMER.

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ASHEVILLE, N. C., SATURDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 31, 1914.

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BATTLES RENEWED ON ENTIRE FRONT

Germans Attempt General Offensive Move From Neuport to Arras.

STUBBORN BATTLES IN EAST PRUSSIA

Italy Now Expected to Join Entente Powers as Result of Turkey's Action Against Russia.

London, Oct. 31.—Although the official communications do not spread much light on the situation in west Flanders other reports emanating from Holland indicate the German retirement from the coast south of Ostend is imminent and it is again reported that the invaders have evacuated Ostend. These rumors, however, are not confirmed from Berlin, which claims some advance along the Ypres line.

The city of Lille is declared so hopeful that the Germans will never return that preparations are being made to resume civil functions.

That Germany has by no means given up its determination to take Calais is indicated by the significant report from Berlin, by way of Copenhagen, that the German general staff has decided that the army in Poland shall fall back to the frontier of Silesia and remain there on the defensive until the battle in Flanders ends with the capture of Calais. Such a movement would release three or four army corps to be transferred from Silesia to Belgium.

The Russian tactics of bending back the line of invaders in Russian Poland one section at a time, the route of one section endangering the section next to it, appears to London observers to have been successful everywhere except on the extreme Russian left, where the Austrians still maintain the positions they succeeded in retaking from the Russians. Along the frontier of east Prussia the Germans are fighting stubbornly to prevent another invasion of their territory at a point further south. It is argued here that the Russians cannot expect to assume a full offensive movement until the Austrians are driven back from the river San. But even this will not mean any immediate invasion of Germany, as it is known that the Germans, in preparation for a possible retirement, have established heavily entrenched positions along the river Wartie.

Speculation as to the effects of the position taken by Turkey varies widely. In some quarters it is argued even that the acts of the former German cruisers Goeben and Breslau will be disavowed by the porte, but the well authenticated news of the departure of the Russian ambassador from Constantinople seems to commit Turkey beyond recall. Delayed telegrams from Constantinople indicated as late as last Wednesday that the British ambassador there had received assurances that Turkey was determined to preserve her neutrality.

The action of the Balkan states in this phase of the crisis is awaited here with keen interest. Greece is expected immediately to throw in her lot with the allied powers—Britain, Russia and France—and it is felt here that Roumania probably will follow the same course. But Bulgaria, which recently regained much of the prestige lost in the second Balkan war, preserves a stubborn silence. Revenge would impel

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Official War Accounts

Russian Statement.
Washington, Oct. 31.—Stubborn fighting continues on the east Prussian front between the Russians and Germans, and the Austrians suffered heavy losses near Tarnow on October 29 at the hands of the Russians who took one thousand prisoners, according to a Russian foreign office dispatch received today at the Russian embassy. The official report follows:
"On the east Prussian front stubborn fighting continues. The attacks of the Germans near Bakalarzewo are being steadily repulsed by our troops. On the left bank of the Vistula the German rear guard under our pressure fell back to the line from Lods to Varshut. Among other military booty we have captured ammunition columns, heavy artillery and aeroplanes."
"Near Tarnow the retreating Austrians were intercepted on October 29 by our troops who had crossed the Vistula to the south of Josefow. Under our cross fire the enemy suffered heavy losses and we took one thousand prisoners."
"In the Carpathians the most activity of the Austrians is directed to the country around Turka."
French Statement.
Paris, Oct. 31.—The French war office this afternoon gave out an official announcement as follows:

"The day of yesterday was marked by an attempt at a general offensive movement on the part of the Germans along the entire front from Neuport to Arras, and by violent attacks delivered at other points of the line of battle. From Neuport to the canal of La Bassée there were alternate movements of advance and retirement."
"To the south of Neuport the Germans, who had taken possession of Rumpkappel, were driven out of this town by a counter attack."
"To the south of Ypres we lost some points of support, Hellebecke and Sanworte, but we progressed to the east of Ypres in the direction of Paschendale."
"Between La Bassée and Arras all the attacks made by the Germans were repulsed with heavy losses for them."
"In the region of Chaumes we advanced beyond Lihons, and we took possession of Lequesnoy in the Sambre district."
"In the region of the Aisne also we have made progress on the heights of the right, back down stream from Sollaimes, but we were compelled to withdraw in the vicinity of Vailly."
"We have advanced in the region of Soisais and there has been a violent engagement in the Argonne."
"In the Yvoerre district we again have won ground in the forest of Le Prêtre."

ASKED WAIVERS ON TWIRLERS

Connie Mack Says His Pitchers, Bender, Coombs, Plank, Have Been "Dickering With the Federals."

ONE HAD RECEIVED A VERY LARGE OFFER MORE THAN LOCAL CLUB COULD MEET—ACTION AS TO BENDER AND PLANK CAUSES SURPRISE.

Philadelphia, Oct. 31.—Connie Mack, manager of the Philadelphia Athletics, announced today that he had asked waivers on pitchers Bender, Plank and Coombs.

"I would not have asked for waivers at this time but for the fact that one of them told me he had been dickering with the Federal league," Connie Mack said. The Philadelphia manager added that one of the pitchers had informed him of receipt of an offer from the Federal league which was so large that he did not think the local management would meet it. He would not disclose the name of the pitcher to whom the offer had been made.

The three pitchers have played prominent parts in world's series baseball games. Plank, acknowledged as one of the greatest left handed pitchers, joined the Athletics in 1901 and figured in the winning of six American league pennants. His best performance in a world's series was in 1913, when he won from the New York Giants, allowing the National leaguers two hits in the final game.

Bender joined the team in 1902. He won games in all of the world's series games except in the series with the Boston Nationals this year. Coombs has not pitched much for two years. He was injured in a world's series game in New York in 1911. He has a record of winning a 24-inning game against the Boston Americans. Coombs earned the title of "iron man" in pitching the Athletics to three victories against the Chicago Cubs in the world's series of 1910.

The waiver on Plank was unexpected.

INDICTMENTS AGAINST TWO OIL COMPANIES

Standard of N. J. and Gulf Refining Engaged in Gasoline Rate War.

Jersey City, N. Y., Oct. 31.—It was reported here today that criminal indictments had been voted by the Hudson county grand jury against the Standard Oil company of New Jersey and the Gulf Refining company, which have been engaged in a rate war on gasoline in Hudson and Essex counties within the past few months. The indictments, according to the report, were two in number and were voted last night. It was said that they would not be handed into court until next Monday and that they were found under the so-called "seven sisters" law.

Two witnesses testified yesterday before the grand jury as to the part played by the two companies in the recent rapid lowering of prices on gasoline in Hudson county. Under the so-called "seven sisters" laws a corporation could be found guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by fine of \$1,000 or more, or imprisonment of the officers whose acts were adjudged illegal, or both.

TWO ALABAMA NEGROES HANGED FOR MURDER

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 31.—Henry Ward and Wash Gray, negroes, were hanged in the county jail here yesterday by Sheriff McAdory for a robbery committed last November. Aaron Pollock, a small storekeeper, was shot after being robbed. Ward made a full confession on the gallows, while Gray said that an innocent man was being killed. Ward strangled to death in 15 minutes. Gray's neck was broken in the fall. The negroes were hanged simultaneously.

BRITT ANSWERS HIS ATTACKERS

Republican-Progressive Candidate for Congress Addressed His First Asheville Audience Last Night.

HE REFUSES TO USE "SHORT, UGLY WORD"

Pays Respects to Both Governor Craig and Congressman Gudger—Attacks Latter's Record.

James J. Britt, the republican-progressive candidate for congress in the Tenth district against Congressman James M. Gudger, Jr., the democratic nominee, made his first public appearance here during the present campaign at the Auditorium last night, and the lower floor of the building was filled, with a few in the balcony. It was an audience representing many political parties besides the two which Mr. Britt represents in this campaign, and they came from many sections of western North Carolina. A large delegation from Henderson county, one of Mr. Britt's strongholds, was present. There was likewise a goodly number present from the county of Macon, which is outside the bounds of the Tenth but which carries sufficient republican enthusiasm to overflow into adjoining territories. The democracy of Asheville was well represented, as were the republican and progressive factions.

The gathering was arranged for the county court house, but the crowd was of such proportions that a removal to the Auditorium was necessary. The crowd marched in a body from the court house to the Auditorium, immediately following the announcement by T. J. Harkins of the change in plans, and was led by the bass drum of the brass band that had been employed. The band had been employed until 8 o'clock, the hour of the speaking having been set for 7:30, and their term of service expired while arrangements were being perfected for the larger building. The big drum, however, remained on the job.

Mr. Britt was introduced by T. J. Harkins in a brief eulogy, and, after a few introductory remarks, the speaker of the evening turned his first attention to Governor Locke Craig and Congressman Gudger, who spoke here a week ago last night. Mr. Britt termed the assault made upon him by these two men at that time as "unprovoked and utterly indecent."

"However," the speaker continued, "they mistake the character of the man they have assaulted. If they think they can provoke me, in the presence of my own people, an assault so low in purpose and so unfair."

Relative to the statements made here by both Governor Craig and Congressman Gudger, Mr. Britt said he refused to use the "short, ugly word," but that Mr. Gudger is suffering with an acute attack of "fabrication" and that Governor Craig had been associating with the former for several days before he spoke here. He charged that Congressman Gudger had consistently misstated the facts throughout the present campaign, and that it was for this reason he (Britt) had refused to accept the invitation to a joint campaign of the district.

Mr. Britt vigorously attacked the record of Mr. Gudger in congress, and his methods of securing the nomination in the Tenth district, declaring that the present congressman measures a nomination in the terms of dollars and cents, just as he would cabbage or potatoes, and that he has tagged every democrat in the district with the price of 67½ cents. He said further that Mr. Gudger has violated the criminal statutes of North Carolina in expending this money and could be prosecuted. He said that Mr. Gudger answered this by saying that the money was spent in two parcels—for the two primaries—and the speaker compared this excuse to a man stealing a suit of clothes on the installment plan to avoid incriminating himself. He declared that the people of the district would utilize themselves by voting for such a man.

In part, Mr. Britt spoke as follows: "A week ago, in this city, Hon. Locke Craig, governor of North Carolina, made a violent and unprovoked attack upon me. I was prepared to hear such a harangue from some war politician, but not from the man whom the people of this state have elevated to the high office of governor. In his mad fury and wild rage, he said that the record of the republican party is 'black as damnation,' and that the record of James J. Britt, republican candidate for congress in the Tenth district, is also black as damnation."

"I shall not reiterate by saying that the record of the democratic party is 'black as damnation,' for it is not true, but it is true that there are bad men in the democratic party, as there are in the republican party, and always have been, and always will be in all parties, for they are composed of human beings."

VESSEL WRECKS; MANY DROWNED

In Spite of Heroic Efforts of the Life Savers a Number of Those Aboard Rohilla Lost Lives.

SHIP BREAKS IN TWO IN THE HEAVY SEAS

Members of Crew Clung to Rigging for Hours—Bodies Wash Ashore—Women Saved.

Whitby, Eng., Oct. 31.—(Via London)—Fifty more men were saved this morning from the wreck of the British hospital ship Rohilla which ran on the rocks off the Yorkshire coast near here early yesterday.

Several men this morning, in response to signals from the shore, decided to take the risk of swimming. A few of them reached the land safely, but others were drowned. Bodies are now being washed up on the beach.

Whitby, Eng., Oct. 31.—(Via London)—The loss of life on the British hospital ship Rohilla, which crashed on the rocks of the Yorkshire coast near here before dawn yesterday is a matter of doubt. The vessel is a total wreck, having broken in two while life savers on shore were shooting lines and trying vainly to make one fast to the ship.

Bearing physicians, nurses and hospital supplies, the Rohilla was on her way to a Belgian or French port when driven ashore. It is understood all women on board were saved, including a survivor of the Titanic disaster. The fate of the physicians is uncertain. The total number of people on board is estimated at 200.

When the stricken vessel broke eight men could be seen climbing a piece of wreckage from the after-part of the ship and it is assumed that they were swept to their death in the boiling sea. Fifteen bodies had been washed ashore this evening. Rain was falling in torrents, a gale was blowing and the seas were mountainous when the vessel hit the rocks. Distress rockets immediately flared above the Rohilla attracting the coast guards, but as the sea continued violent it was possible to launch only two boats from shore. These boats brought back all the people they could carry.

Most of the ship's boats were crushed in attempts to launch them and only one got away, bearing a handful of survivors. Even those had to be dragged to the beach, as the boat capsized in the breakers.

For four hours members of the crew and others could be seen clinging to the rigging, their plight becoming more desperate as the tide rose.

In an effort to reach them the life savers shot many rockets. Then at 3:30 o'clock the Levittable came—the ship's back broke.

It is believed that most of those on board perished. Eleven physicians were among them, it is said.

London, Oct. 31.—At least one hundred persons are believed to have perished in the wreck of the steamer Rohilla which ran on the rocks near Whitby early yesterday.

TWO GERMAN CRUISERS ARE REPORTED CAPTURED

Said to Have Been Taken as Result of Failure of the Coal Supply.

London, Oct. 31.—A dispatch to the Post from Sydney, N. S. W., says it is reported that the German cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau have been captured as a result of the failure of their coal supply. There is no official confirmation of the report to be had here.

The Scharnhorst and Gneisenau are sister ships of the battle cruiser type launched in 1906 and having a displacement of 11,420 tons. On September 22 they bombarded Papete, capital of Tahiti, the principal one of the Society islands and under French control. Considerable damage was done to the town and a small loss of life was reported.

DIPLOMATS TO LEAVE TURKEY

WALSER LETTER HAS AN APPEAL

Progressive Chairman Strikes Responsive Cord in Breast of at Least One Man in Tenth District.

A PROGRESSIVE FROM WAYNESVILLE SPEAKS

Cannot Support Mr. Britt and Work to Build up Republican Party That Has Trampled People.

The communication from Zeb. V. Walsler, chairman of the state executive committee of the progressive party in North Carolina, published in The Gazette-News yesterday, in which the old scores between the Taftite republicans and Roosevelt progressives were revived, has struck a responsive cord in the breast of at least one supporter in the Tenth district of Col. Theodore Roosevelt.

Mr. Walsler yesterday reviewed that wounds that the followers of Mr. Taft inflicted upon the progressive wing of the party two years ago, and again reiterated the charges that the followers of Mr. Taft perpetuated "big steals" at Chicago and Charlotte. "This feeling is not entirely extinct in this district, where a coalition has been effected between the two factions in the joint nomination of James J. Britt as the congressional candidate, is indicated in a communication received this morning from J. P. Heires, a progressive of Waynesville. His communication follows:

"Editor of The Gazette-News: "After reading the communication from Mr. Walsler in your last issue, I feel at liberty to express my views to some extent with regard to the congressional race in this district. I have failed thus far to see the policy for helping to build up the very powers that have, by honest and illegitimate means, tried to trample under foot the will and right of the American people; who have blotted and stained forever the name of the republican party; and who go before the country with no other merit than the name which they themselves have corrupted and destroyed; and in their dying moments have hovered under the wings of the whittier ring for protection."

"As for me, my patriotism is for my country. I do not worship an idle name. I have heard the roaring of cannon and the bleating of the goats. I have seen the indomitable will and untiring energy of the American people well nigh blasted under the blighting influence of a misguided patriotism, and today we feel the slimy coils of the deadly serpent and see the restless uneasiness of our people as it cautiously encircles us again. If the hosts of progressives should be disbanded, then I, for one, am lost in the wilderness of uncertainty. I cannot vote for Gudger; I will not vote for the man who is hovering under the wings of corruption, with his head out on one side, and things republican; then on the other, and things progressive."

"Respectfully,
(Signed) J. P. HEIRES."

STATE DEPARTMENT PROTESTS TO BRITAIN

Washington, Oct. 31.—The state department today formally protested to the British government against the detention of the American copper laden steamer Kronland at Gibraltar. The British authorities were asked to explain why the vessel has not either been released or sent to a prize court. The protest also stated that from information that this government has there seems to be no warrant for the further detention of the ship which is bound to Italy and Greece. It is probable that protest against the detention of other vessels by Great Britain will be made later.

SEVENTEEN INJURED IN RAILROAD WRECK

Binghamton, Oct. 31.—Seventeen persons were hurt today in the wreck of train No. 32 on the Lackawanna railroad, which was thrown off an embankment a mile west of Alford, Pa. Part of the train of five cars rolled down a 35-foot incline into Martin's creek. The wreck was attributed to a broken rail.

Representatives of Allies Preparing to Quit Constantinople, the State Department Is Informed.

WAR NOT DECLARED AS YET HOWEVER

Opinion Expressed That German Commanders of Turkish Cruisers Acted Independently.

Washington, Oct. 31.—Word reached the state department today that diplomatic representatives of the allies were making preparations to leave Constantinople. Officials declined to reveal the source of their information, but it was understood that the United States already has been asked to take over the affairs of at least one of the legations at the Turkish capital.

London, Oct. 31.—No declaration of war has yet been made by either Turkey or Russia, and the suggestions is made from various sources that the German commanders of the cruisers Goeben and Breslau may have forced the situation without the authority of the Turkish government, owing to Germany's chagrin at the defeat on the Vistula.

The correspondent of the Daily Mail in Petrograd says that the Ottoman charge d'affaires is still there and professes to have no information regarding the action of his government. He also declares that the Russian ambassador at Constantinople as yet has not been handed his passports by the porte, which only a few days ago assured the ambassador that Turkey's neutrality was firm. It is assumed, this correspondent concludes, that Germany has found some means to force Turkey into the war.

Late Assurance.
The only message from Constantinople up to an early hour today was a delayed Reuter telegram sent from Constantinople on Wednesday, before the recent eventualities changed the face of affairs.

The Reuter message declares that war was farthest from the thoughts of the Turkish government. It says: "The grand vizier has renewed his emphatic assurance to the British ambassador that Turkey will not embark on a war. He plans to send Halil Bey, president of the chamber of deputies, on a mission to Berlin, Vienna and Bucharest. The object of the mission is to obtain a correct view of the status of affairs in Europe and to convince Germany of the necessity that Turkey shall not depart from its position of neutrality. Halil Bey is also to confer in Berlin with Ibrahim Hakki Pasha, a former grand vizier, who has just arrived in the German capital from London."

"Forced Sultan?"
The correspondent of the Morning Post in Petrograd sends his paper the following:

"The statement published here that the guns of the cruiser Goeben were turned on the sultan's palace in order to make him yield to the German demand is probably untrue."
"Continuation prevails in Constantinople and the Turkish ministry is sitting continuously. The secretary of the Turkish embassy in Petrograd says that he hopes the misunderstanding will soon be cleared. The head of the Moslems in Russia condemns the folly of Turkey and declares that his followers are loyal to the Russian emperor."

Bishop Smith Dies

Washington, Oct. 31.—Bishop Charles W. Smith of St. Louis, died of heart failure here today at the home of Justice Anderson of the district supreme court. The bishop had been attending the meeting of conference claimants of the Methodist Episcopal church in session here.

ITALY ACTIVE

London, Oct. 31.—A Stefani agency dispatch from Rome says: "A semi-official note has been issued stating that the island of Sanzo was occupied yesterday by Admiral Patris of the Italian navy who disembarked one battery and a company of infantry. The ownership of this island which commands the entrance to the harbor of Avlona, Albania, has long been a matter of dispute between Greece and Albania."