

The Asheville Gazette News.

WEATHER FORECAST:
LOCAL RAIN.

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ASHEVILLE, N. C., TUESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 8, 1914.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

GERMANS AGAIN ACTIVE IN WESTERN THEATER

Department of the Flanders Own Indicates Invaders Have Renewed Attempt to Gain the Coast.

ENGAGEMENTS IN SOMME DEPARTMENT

Man Report Declares That 10,000 Russian Prisoners Were Taken in Fighting Around Lodz.

The interdependence of the engagements in the eastern and western arenas of the European war is emphasized by the indications that the Germans in the west, who have remained comparatively inactive during the last several days, have renewed their attempt to reach the channel ports, following their important successes against the Russians in the Polish Poland campaign. This is evidenced by the news from Paris that the invaders are bombarding a village in the Flanders. That the Germans are again making an attempt to reach the coast of France is also indicated by reports that the warships of the Germans are bombarding the German positions near the coast, which some observers believe is an operation to check the enemy's advance on these fronts.

The resumption of more active hostilities in Belgium soon after her main energies are directed to another field demonstrates again the excellence of Germany's transportation facilities, by which troops can be transferred so quickly from one extreme of the empire to another.

The French also report advances by the allies in the department of Somme and the capture of the village of Verles. Official dispatches say the Germans have utilized their light guns in place of the heavy artillery because of the condition of the ground owing to inundations.

The Austrian war office declares fighting in Poland as yet decisive, although the Austrians have been forced to retreat. Likewise, in west Galicia and the Carpathians, the fighting continues without result.

An effort is being made to bring about a resumption of normal conditions in Paris, which is indicated by the fact that President Poincaré will return to the capital from Bordeaux to preside at the cabinet meeting Friday. The Paris bourse has re-opened.

Pope Benedict is endeavoring to effect a truce between the belligerents during the Christmas holidays.

100,000 Russian Prisoners.
London, Dec. 8.—A Central News dispatch from Amsterdam says that, according to a message from Berlin, it is reported that upwards of 100,000 Russian prisoners were taken by the German forces during the fighting in Poland which resulted in the capture of Lodz. The news of the capture of Lodz, the German states, has aroused great excitement in Berlin. Houses are decorated with German and Austrian flags and there are other evidences of the high spirits of the people.

Ready for Trouble.
Rome, Dec. 8.—Eight battalions of Italian troops have been ordered to Libya to reinforce the troops there, and according to the announcement "to be ready for any aggression."

Goeben Out of Business.
London, Dec. 8.—A Daily Telegraph dispatch from Petrograd says, Constantinople advises that the Turkish cruiser Goeben cannot be repaired until mechanics and materials arrive from Germany. The correspondent adds that the work of repair will take at least two months.

Bombard Village.
Paris, Dec. 8.—This official communication was issued by the war office last night:
"In Belgium the Germans have bombarded the village of Dunkirk, four kilometers (about two miles and a half) west of Neuport.
"Between Bethune and Lens we have taken the village of Verles and the position of the Rutoire, to the east of which we are along the railway line."

Vienna Statement.
Vienna, Dec. 8.—(Via Amsterdam and London)—The following official announcement has been issued by the Austrian war office:
"The fighting in the Russian war theater is not yet decisive. The Austro-Hungarian and German troops in the district southwest of Piotrkow (Poland) attacked Russian troops advancing northward across Nowo Radomsko and forced them to retreat.
"In west Galicia important battles are proceeding, but no result has been reached. The Austro-German troops captured 1,500 Russians in that territory Sunday.
"In the Carpathians the battles continue, and from some points the enemy has withdrawn strong forces behind the mountains."

Bomb Kills Ten.
London, Dec. 8.—(Via Central News correspondent in northwestern France says)
"In attempting to destroy a railroad station a Tuppel aeroplane dropped two bombs on the Harebronne. The first did no harm. On returning the aeroplane dropped a bomb in a crowd gathered about a hole made by the first missile, killing ten and wounding five civilians, including women and children."

Berlin, Dec. 8.—(By Wireless to London)—The official statement given out by the German war department yesterday says that in northern Poland the Germans have been successful in the fighting around Lodz, defeating strong Russian forces stationed northwest and southwest of that city. The text of the communication follows:
"There is nothing of special importance to report in the western arena of war, nor from the region to the east, of the plains of the Masurian lakes.
"In northern Poland, we have gained important successes in the prolonged fighting around Lodz, defeating strong Russian forces.
"Lodz has been taken by us. Details cannot yet be made public on account of the extended field of operations, but the Russian losses were large. Attempts by the Russians to come to the assistance of the threatened army from the north were followed by the activities of the Austro-Hungarian and German forces in the district of Piotrkow."

French Statement.
Paris, Dec. 8.—The French war office made public the following statement in Paris yesterday:
"In the region of the Yser we have continued our attacks on the few entrenchments which are still held by the enemy on the left bank of the canal.
"In the Armentieres and in Arras as well as in the Oise territory, in the Aisne and Argonne, there is nothing to report except to refer in general terms to the superiority of our offensive operations.
"In Champagne our heavy artillery in several engagements showed marked superiority over that of the enemy.
"There is nothing new to report on our eastern fronts, where our positions have been maintained."

SHIP BEARING GIFTS ARRIVES AT GENEVA
Geneva, Dec. 8.—(By Way of Rome)—Bringing gifts for the war orphans of Germany and Austria, the Christmas ship Jason, which arrived today, was stopped by three warships from Marauille. As soon as the battleships discovered the character of the ship and her cargo, they immediately drew off.

Facing Famine.
Washington, Dec. 8.—(By News of food among the people of Albania and Palestine has been reported by Ambassador Morgenthau to the state department. In these countries, the report said, more than 300,000 people are facing famine and 30,000 have already died of starvation.

Coming to Paris.
Bordeaux, France, Dec. 8.—(Via Paris)—President Poincaré will transfer his official residence to Paris this week. He will arrive there in time to preside at a cabinet meeting Friday.

PRESIDENT WISHES TO CLEAN SLATE

He Hopes That Special Session of Sixty-Fourth Congress Will Be Unnecessary.

Gazette-News Bureau
Wyatt Building
Washington, Dec. 8.—The short and final session of the sixty-third congress convened at noon yesterday. It will end when the body as now constituted will be dissolved automatically on March 4.

In the usual course of events the sixty-fourth congress will not come into being until December 1915. Whether, like the present congress, it will be called into extra session depends on the developments of the next three months.

President Wilson does not desire an extra session. In this determination he is supported by party leaders in both houses. The president's wish is to clean up the administration slate before March 4, so that the country may be given a legislative vacation during the coming summer.

There are, however, still a few of the pledges of the Baltimore platform to be filled, and while the proposed legislation will not have the far-reaching effect on economic and financial interests as the laws enacted during the last two years, it is of almost equal importance.

Even if nothing should be done now except the passage of the appropriation bills to defray the expenses of the government during the fiscal year of 1915-16 the democratic administration, the democratic boast, can look back on a record of accomplishment not even approached in many years.

The tariff has been reduced downward to a degree unexampled in the history of this generation.

The banking and currency system of the country has been radically revised and improved.

Approved by the People.
Additional restrictions have been placed upon trusts and combinations in restraint of trade. A trades commission has been authorized which will have important control over business.

An income tax has been substituted in part for the indirect system of tariff taxes.

The enactment of these reforms was approved by the people of the country in the recent election. Democrats claim as was shown by the continuance of democratic control in both branches of congress and the election of many democratic governors.

DISCUSSES U. S. 'PREPAREDNESS'

President Answers Those Contending Country Is Unprepared for National Defense, in Congress.

OUTLINE OF PROGRAM OF LEGISLATION GIVEN

People Have Been Misinformed; National Defense Has Not Been Neglected, President Declares.

Washington, Dec. 8.—President Wilson, in his annual address to congress today, gave his answer to those who contend the United States is unprepared for national defense.

"Let there be no misconception," he said, "the country has been misinformed. We have not been negligent of national defense. We are not unmindful of the great responsibility resting upon us. We shall learn and profit by the lesson of every experience and every new circumstance; and what is needed will be adequately done."

Assembled in joint session in the hall of the house, senators and representatives heard the president, reading his address in person from the clerk's desk, outline the administration legislative program and voice a fervent hope that the United States might be instrumental in bringing peace to Europe. The legislative program includes passage of the conservation bills, bills for ultimate independence of the Philippines, ratification of the London convention for safety at sea, a government owned merchant marine, chartering the "perilous waters of the Alaskan coast and measures for economy in all branches of the government.

National Defense.
But the portion of the president's address which commanded intense interest was that in which he discussed the subject of national defense.

"It is said in some quarters that we are not prepared for war," said the president. "What is meant by being prepared? Is it meant that we are not ready upon brief notice to put a nation in the field, a nation of men trained to arms? Of course we are not ready to do that; and we shall never be in time of peace so long as we retain our present political principles and institutions. And what is it that it is suggested we should be prepared to do? To defend ourselves against attack? We have always found means to do that, and shall find them whenever it is necessary without calling our people away from their necessary tasks to render compulsory military service in times of peace."

"From the first we have had a clear and settled policy with regard to military establishments. We never have had, and while we retain our present principles and ideals we never shall have, a large standing army. If asked, are you ready to defend yourselves? We reply, most assuredly, to the utmost; and yet we shall not turn America into a military camp. We will not ask our young men to spend the best years of their lives making soldiers of themselves. There is another sort of energy in us. It will know how to declare itself and make itself effective should occasion arise. And especially when half the world is on fire we shall be careful to make our moral insurance against the spread of the conflagration very definite and certain and adequate indeed."

"Let us remind ourselves, therefore, of the only thing we can do or will do. We must depend in every time of national peril, in the future as in the past, not upon a standing army, nor yet upon a reserve army, but upon a citizenry trained and accustomed to arms. It will be right enough, right American policy, based upon our accustomed principles and practices, to provide a system by which every citizen who will volunteer for the training may be made familiar with the use of modern arms, the rudiments of drill and maneuver, and the maintenance and sanitation of camps. We should encourage such training and make it a means of discipline which our young men will learn to value. It is right that we should provide it not only but that we should make it as attractive as possible, and so induce our young men to undergo it at such times as they can command a little freedom and can seek the physical development they need, for mere health's sake, if for nothing more. Every means by which such things can be stimulated is legitimate, and such a method smacks of true American ideas."

MASONS' ABLE TO PAY DEBTS

Big Payment on Grand Lodge Temple Shows Order Is Not Suffering From Hard Times.

GOVERNOR CRAIG TO PARDON BANK CASHIER

Alford of Bank of Kenley to Get Freedom—Young Men From North Get Two Years Sentence.

(By W. T. Bost.)
Raleigh, Dec. 8.—John C. Drewey has displayed a \$10,000 receipt on the streets, an acknowledgment of a Masonic check for debt on the big Temple building on Fayetteville street.

"That shows that the Masons are not having hard times," Mr. Drewey said, "and this represents another payment on the Masonic building. We have cleared up the small debts and paid down to \$20,000 our first mortgage bonds. We now owe about \$59,000 on this property which is worth more than \$175,000. And most of that debt is not due for more than 20 years. I just thought it would be interesting to Grand Lodge Masons and everybody else to know that they are not poor."

The Masonic temple was the first of the big buildings to go up in Raleigh and made history, for when it climbed a little nearer than its fellows to the skies, other buildings began to be ambitious. The Commercial National bank and the Citizens National bank went ten and eleven stories respectively and hundred thousand dollar structures became more numerous.

The insurance company of which Mr. Drewey is state manager, carried the \$50,000 bond issue which enabled the Masonic fraternity to build the first of the big office structures in Raleigh.

Will Pardon Cashier.
Governor Craig is expected Wednesday to issue a pardon to Cashier Alford, of the Bank of Kenley, who will have served two years on that date, December 8.

The cashier's friends have made a remarkable fight for him, the officers of Johnston county and the officers of the bank joining heartily in the appeal for clemency. He had been sentenced to five years. Though young Alford left the bank in pretty bad shape, there was universal sympathy for him because conditions of protracted illness in his family and necessitous circumstances were always cited in his behalf. No prisoner has had a better record and none has had often such appeals in his behalf. One of the most active workers for him was Secretary Josephus Daniels.

To Get Three Years Each.
In Judge Whedbee's court, Herbert Locke and R. Y. Chase, Lynn, Massachusetts men who have been convicted of passing moneyless checks, were sentenced to three years each on the Wake county roads.

These young fellows came south together several weeks ago and Locke first fell into trouble. After being caught he tried to kill himself in the cell. He had passed checks signed in names familiar to Raleigh people. Then Chase came. He was the elder and appeared to have more sense. He said he bore a commission from Locke's mother to keep the boy straight, but he two could not resist the temptation to play a trick on the south first.

MIGHTY GALE SWEEPS COAST

High Seas Batter Coast Towns, Destroying Houses and Devastating Various Summer Resort Cities.

SHIPS HUNT SHELTER; SMALL CRAFT WRECKED

Entire Atlantic Coast, From Hatteras to Maine, Swept by Most Terrific Storm.

New York, Dec. 8.—Chilling north winds, intensified at many places by pelting rains and driving snows, continued to hurl their wintry blasts along the north Atlantic sea coast and in New York city.

Until a late hour last night the high winds, which at times blew at a velocity of 68 miles an hour and lashed the sea into a fury from North Carolina to the coast of Maine, continued unabated. Seabright, N. J., seems to have sustained the brunt of the storm, while other summer resorts along the coast suffered severely. The property damage to Seabright, so far as reported, has been estimated at about \$500,000. All day yesterday the waves battered at the protecting sea walls and some of these were washed away at places. The giant seas wrecked fine houses and cottages.

Of the four deaths which have been reported as a result of the storm, one was accounted for by wireless from the Southern Pacific Steamship company's liner Comus, which said that Arthur Tomlinson of Brooklyn had been washed overboard off the Delaware capes. One woman was killed by an automobile on Hempstead, N. Y. Another was killed by touching a live wire at Bridgeport, Conn., and a third woman was trapped in a boat house at Atlantic City.

New York, Dec. 8.—Huge seas backed by a mighty tide and howling northeast gale, battered the New York coast yesterday, smashing houses, wrecking boats, flooding villages, devastating summer resorts and forcing steamers to remain outside Sandy Hook and fight the storm.

At Sandy Hook the wind attained a velocity of 68 miles an hour, driving in a record breaking tide and making it impossible for pilots to board incoming vessels. In New York harbor the tide was the highest in thirteen years and the waves drove New Jersey ferries to cover and strewed the Staten Island shore with the wrecks of scores of small craft.

The worst damage in this vicinity was suffered at Coney Island, where the loss within the past 24 hours is estimated at \$200,000.

Two or three fine houses at Seagrave were wrecked, despite the fight of a small army of workmen to build defenses with hundreds of sand bags. Fifteen buildings along Coney Island had been damaged tonight, including big bathing pavilions and summer cottages.

FIRST SESSION OF CONFERENCE

Baptist Pastors of State Meet in Annual Session in Raleigh Last Night—More Than 300 Present.

OPENING ADDRESS BY REV. FRED. M. GARDNER

Although of London, He Displayed High Sense of Humor in Discussing Mission of the Church.

(By W. T. Bost.)
Raleigh, Dec. 8.—More than 300 delegates to the Baptist state convention had been assigned to their hosts yesterday evening when the first conference of the pastors began in the first Baptist church at 7:30 with Rev. Frederick M. Gardner preaching the sermon.

Throughout the day the local entertainment committee had a large number of church members at the station receiving the visitors who came in large numbers upon every train.

Dr. W. R. Cullom of Wake Forest presided at the conference last night, one largely attended despite the disturbance of the elements.

The opening addresses were made by Mr. Gardner and by Rev. Henry F. Cope, Mr. Cope having come from Wake Forest where he has been delighting students and faculty at the college. The conference continues through today, when it merges into the convention that actually begins with Rev. E. T. Carter's sermon in the city auditorium.

Mr. Gardner chose his first text from John 16th chapter and part of the 7th verse, "I will send him," the reference was to the ministry of the holy spirit.

The preacher spoke powerfully against the "made in Germany" theology which he declared "is not so popular now as it once was." He thought of many modernisms, the rationalistic theology that doubts the virgin conception, the atonement, the divine sonship of Jesus, things that so many ministers are allowing themselves to forget. When he quoted a minister as having said that the seminaries are no longer teaching the virgin birth of Jesus, he declared in the language of John Wesley "thank God that's a lie." "I would not be so stupid as to inveigh against scholarship," he declared, "but against that modern rationalism that insists one must suffer a paralysis of faith before he can exercise the function of knowledge."

OIL STEAMER GOES ON BRITISH COAST

Vedra, From Port Arthur, Texas, Wrecked and Burned—All But Two Lost.

Barrow, Eng., Dec. 8.—The British steamer Vedra, from Port Arthur, Tex., with a cargo of gasoline, went ashore here this morning in the heavy gale. The cargo became ignited and of the crew of 36 only two men were saved, and these were seriously burned.

The Vedra left Port Arthur November 13 and passed Norfolk November 21. The vessel is said to have been sighted at Tusker on the Irish sea. The Vedra was commanded by Captain Brewster. She was built in 1893 at Sunderland and was of 4,057 tons. She belonged to the Associated Oil Carriers company of London.

CENSUS BUREAU GIVES OUT ITS GINNING REPORT

Total to Date Is 13,066,105 Bales—In N. C. the Total Is 674,195 Bales.
Washington, Dec. 8.—Cotton ginned up till December 1 amounted to 13,066,105 bales, according to the report given out by the census bureau today. Round bales included 85,195; New Island, 83,991. The ginnings in North Carolina were 674,195, and in South Carolina 1,231,447.

'PREPAREDNESS' MAY BE INVESTIGATED

Washington, Dec. 8.—Preparedness of the United States for war seems destined for investigation in congress. Several bills and resolutions bearing on the subject were introduced yesterday and an inquiry by congressional committees is regarded as the capital as certain although President Wilson told Representative Gardner during the day that he opposed the latter's plan for an investigation by a national security commission. The president expressed the opinion that this would be an unwise way of handling "a question which might create very unfavorable international impressions."