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The Asheville Gazette News.

WEATHER FORECAST:
FAIR; COLDER.

VOLUME XIX. 1913.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., MONDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 14, 1914.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

THE SERBIANS CONTINUE VICTORIOUS OPERATIONS

AUSTRIAN ARMY LOSES HEAVILY

Unmolested That Austrians Are Preparing to Retire From Belgrade—Montenegrins Successful.

TRENCHES OF ALLIES VIOLENTLY BOMBARDED

Reports From East Do Not Tell of Decisive Results in Prolonged Fighting in Russian Poland.

One of the most striking features of the war is the manner in which the Serbian army has risen from the heavy blows delivered by the Austrians several days ago. The Serbians rallied quickly and late reports indicate that they are keeping up their victorious operations in the Balkans. It is reported that the defeated Austrian army after having retired into Bosnia, was attacked there by Montenegrins and lost heavily in killed, wounded, prisoners and war materials; and it is also stated that the Serbian right wing repulsed an attack by the Austrians, which two reverses probably account for the rumor that the Austrians are preparing to retire from Belgrade, the capital of Serbia.

Official reports from the various war news centers lead to the conclusion that the Germans are strongly resisting the aggression of the allies in Belgium and France, which during the past two or three days has given evidence of growing more pronounced. At one place the reports disclose that the French crossed the German line of communication and thereby suffered the loss of a great many men. The allies have made numerous attacks which have been met by counter-attacks in which both sides suffered severely.

There is nothing to indicate that any decisive results have occurred in Poland, generally speaking, as the official Russian and German reports are contradictory. The Russian center is the object of the main German attack, which the Germans declare is proceeding favorably.

But the Russians undoubtedly have the upper hand in the Carpathians, where they are still holding the mountain passes, by which the Austrians are prevented from sending aid to the hard-pressed troops in Galicia.

A Petrograd statement given out today says that all day Friday fighting occurred on the Russian front in the Caucasus; that the enemy was repulsed with heavy losses and pursued beyond the river Euphrates.

Today's French report says that in the region of the Aisne the Germans violently bombarded the trenches of the allies but were repulsed and that the German positions were demolished.

(Continued on Page Fifteen).

PRISONERS HAVE NARROW ESCAPE

Seven Men in One Cell in the Buncombe Jail Almost Suffocated When Bedding Is Ignited.

THE FIRE OCCURRED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON

When Jailor Jordan Finally Arrived, Six of the Men Had to Be Carried Out of Cell.

The timely arrival of the small son of County Jailor Dick Jordan, at the jail yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock prevented a seven-fold tragedy in one of the cells at the jail, where seven white men, who were confined together, were nearly suffocated with smoke from a burning bed in the cell, supposed to have caught from a cigarette carelessly thrown by one of the prisoners. When Jailor Jordan arrived, after having been told by his son that he saw smoke coming from the jail, six of the men were overcome by the smoke, being in a helpless condition on the floor of the cell. It was with great difficulty that the men were dragged from the cell, and with greater difficulty that they were restored.

The man in the cell were: E. Sudeth, Jeter Pritchard, Jim Blanchard, Leo Ramsey, Calvin Kuykendall, Lloyd Anderson and Napoleon Ledford, the last two being United States prisoners, brought here recently from Black Mountain on charges of retailing.

According to the statements of the men, the seven were all in the same cell and were playing a game of cards. The game had been in progress since directly after the dinner hour. Most of the men were smoking during the game and it is thought that one of them carelessly threw a lighted cigarette on the cot. This cot had several comforts and blankets on it and it is thought that the cigarette burned through all of them before the smoke attracted the attention of the men, as the cell was already filled with the smoke from the pipes and cigarettes the men were smoking.

Finally, when it was found that the cot was burning, efforts were made by the men to extinguish the fire, but the scattering of the bedcovers had a tendency to make greater smoke and this continued until the men were compelled to fall on the floor and get their faces as close as possible to the bars of cell next to the corridor.

During all this time the men were calling out as loudly as possible to the other prisoners in the jail that there was a fire in the cell, but while the prisoners in other cells distinctly heard and understood, they were powerless to render any aid, as they too were drenched in the cry of the jail walls, despite the great noise that they made.

Jailor Jordan was out at the time and later returned, but was in his residence, which is just to the rear of the jail building and far enough removed so that he could not hear the men yelling. He had visited the jail just a short time before the fire was discovered and, finding everything all right, had not gone in the jail building for an hour or two.

The jailor's small son, coming into the jail yard and playing there, happened to look up at the jail windows and saw the smoke coming down and saw the men struggling through the smoke. Realizing that something was wrong, but of course having no idea of the seriousness of the conditions of the seven men in the cell, he notified his father. Jailor Jordan at once went in the building and discovered the serious and dangerous position of the seven men.

He at once unlocked the cell door and only one man, E. Sudeth, was able to walk out. With the assistance of other prisoners, the jailor removed the six exhausted men to the corridors of the jail, and the prisoners extinguished the burning bedcovers.

Hard work and the other prisoners of the jail and the prisoners of the men who were in the cell. When the door was unlocked, six of the men had towels and other clothes pressed to their faces, in efforts to keep out the smoke.

This is the first occurrence of the kind to ever happen at the local jail, although there have been fires there several times in the past but at no time were any of the prisoners in danger.

Mrs. J. J. Cayce and two daughters, the Misses Cayce, who have spent the past season here, will leave today for Georgia, and will later go to Florida to see part of the season.

TURK WARSHIP IS TORPEDOED

British Submarine B-11 Destroys Battleship Messudieh in Dardanelles, Is London Report.

SUBMARINE ESCAPED AFTER A HOT CHASE

The Messendieh Was of Old Type, Constructed in 1874 and Reconstructed in 1903.

London, Dec. 14.—A communication issued by the official news bureau in London says that the Turkish battleship Messudieh has been torpedoed by a British submarine.

The statement of the official bureau is as follows:

"Yesterday the British submarine B-11, in charge of Lieutenant Commander Norman C. Holbrook, entered the Dardanelles and, in spite of the unfavorable current, dived in the vicinity of five rows of Turkish mines and torpedoed the Turkish battleship Messudieh, which was guarding the mine field, and, although pursued by Turkish war vessels, returned to her base in safety after having been submerged at one time for nine hours. The last seen of the Messudieh she was sinking by the stern."

The Turkish warship Messudieh was an old boat built at Blackwell, England, in 1874, and reconstructed in 1903. She was 332 feet long, had a beam of 59 feet and was of about 10,000 tons burden. Her speed was about 17 1/2 knots. Her main batteries consisted of two 9-inch guns in the turret and 12 six-inch guns in the battery.

In the war with Greece in 1912, the Messudieh was reported to have been badly damaged in a battle with Greek vessels in the Dardanelles.

The Messudieh carried a crew of about 600 men.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Congress will enter the second week of its winter session determined to complete its tasks March 4, so that no extra session will be necessary next summer.

Democratic leaders of both houses agree with President Wilson that the country should have a rest from national legislation. Right of way will be given appropriation bills with conservation measures, the Philippine bill and the government's purchase bill following.

While no special investigation of military preparedness seems in prospect, much attention will center about investigations before the regular house committees.

The naval committee will resume consideration of the appropriation bill tomorrow with Secretary Daniels again on the stand.

The immigration bill, with its literacy test for aliens, will again be under debate in the senate while that body waits for the appropriation bills to come from the house. Its supporters insist that it will be passed, although it was not included in the president's outline of legislation.

Conservation measures—the water-power site and the mineral leasing bill—will be reported from the senate committee on public lands early in January. Hearings begin today before the senate Philippine committee on the house bill to give larger measures of self-government to the Philippines. Some part of each day in the senate also will be given over to executive consideration of the safety at sea treaty.

Ship purchase bills, still are in committee in both houses.

Capetown, Dec. 14.—The death of Major General Sir Edward Yewdell Brabant, who gained fame as commander of a division of colonials, known as Brabant's home, in the Boer war, was announced yesterday. He was born in 1829.

The trial of Hall Rhodes, on charges of shooting Walter Duckett in an altercation near Arden several weeks ago, was postponed until next Saturday, it being scheduled to come up last Saturday before Magistrate B. L. Lyda.

MR. BRYAN TO FIGHT WHISKEY

Secretary of State Thinks the Fight Should Be Made by State and Not Nationally, However.

EXPLANATION MADE IN COMMONER EDITORIAL

Says Democrats Must Get on Right Side of Question or It Will Draw "Worst Republican Effort."

Washington, Dec. 14.—Explanation of the widely heralded editorial in last month's Commoner with reference to the democratic party and the liquor and woman suffrage questions, which did not mean that he regarded the liquor as national but as state questions, is made by Secretary Bryan in another editorial in the Commoner, the text of which has just been made available here. This places him in accord with the president so far as treating these questions as state issues is concerned.

The secretary points out that he does not yet believe the time opportune for action by congress on these issues, as enough states are not yet in line for prohibition and woman suffrage, but he declares, the democratic party throughout the country must nevertheless get on the right side of these questions or he predicts it will draw to it the worst element of the republican party.

The text of Mr. Bryan's editorial is as follows:

"Some of the democratic editors protest at the editorial in the last issue of the Commoner, one entitled 'The Alcoholic Millstone' and the other an editorial in support of woman suffrage."

"These editors seem to consider the above mentioned editorials as an endorsement of national amendments favorable to prohibition and woman's suffrage, but a careful reading of them will reveal the fact that while the former plainly protests against the domination of the democratic party by the liquor interests and the latter as plainly supports woman's suffrage, they relate to these issues as they present themselves in the various states."

"A two-third vote of the two houses of congress is required for the submission of an amendment to the national constitution and then the amendment must be ratified by three-fourths of the states. There is no reason to believe that a prohibition amendment or a suffrage amendment would at this time be ratified by three-fourths of the states, even if it secured a vote of two-thirds of the two houses."

"Believing in both woman's suffrage and the abolition of the liquor traffic, I would vote for either amendment if submitted, but the time does not seem opportune for the submission of either of these amendments. A natural contest for either amendment would simply divert attention from other issues upon which the people are ready to act without advancing the cause of woman's suffrage or the prohibition movement."

"These questions are, however, at issue in the states, and as a democrat I am interested in seeing the party take the moral side of both questions—the side that appeals to young men who are coming out of our schools and colleges and who assume the obligations of citizenship with a vision of better things."

"New Issues: New Alignments."

"Every new issue causes a new alignment; in proportion as it is an important issue it brings about changes in party affiliations. If the democratic party takes the side of the brewers, the distillers and the saloon keepers it will lose many of its best members and it will draw to itself the worst element of the republican party—and the democratic party cannot afford to invite an element that puts desire for drink before principles of government and the nation's welfare."

"The more we have of that element the more difficult it will be to draw to us those whose presence gives strength to a party and whose voice and example increase in numbers."

"The democratic party cannot be killed even by association with so contaminating an influence as the liquor interests, but why should the party allow itself to be debauched and disgraced? It would take a decade or more to remove the taint that the representatives of the triple curse—the saloon, the gambling hall and the brothel—will bring upon the party if they are allowed to dictate its policy."

"The result of the liquor fight in the last campaign is full of warning. If the democratic party fails to heed these warnings to it it does so at its own peril."

General Dead.

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FIRE INSURANCE RATES REDUCED

Sweeping Reductions in North Carolina Became Effective Nov. 12 But Just Now Made Public.

UNDERWRITERS' ASS'N. ACTED INDEPENDENTLY

The Association Had Taken Action Before It Received the Hard Knocks From the Committee.

(By W. T. Post.)

Raleigh, Dec. 14.—Fire insurance reductions of sweeping character predicted upon the administration of the fire insurance laws by Commissioner James R. Young, have been promulgated by the Southeastern Underwriters' association and are now in effect.

The association which came in for some fierce knocks by legislative report a few weeks ago, had acted before the committee that administered the club, but not until today had its action reached Raleigh. These lowered rates went into effect November 12 which was also the date of a conference with Commissioner Young.

The association man here had expected such action, but did not know that it had actually taken place.

Addressing the letter to the agents of the association, the association declares that under its constitution it is pledged the encouragement of laws to lessen the fire waste of this section to the end that the cost of fire insurance to the public may be reduced to the minimum consistent with the solvency of the companies. It resolves that:

"Whereas, the efficient administration of the fire insurance laws in North Carolina has resulted in a great improvement in the fire department service, the construction of buildings, chimneys, and flues and the conviction and imprisonment of a large number of incendiaries, and these conditions have resulted in a constant diminution of the fire waste in North Carolina as shown by official records."

"Resolved, that in addition to the special reductions in rates promulgated for the state of North Carolina under the date of November 9, 1890, January 15, 1903, and September 20, 1905, in recognition of the wise and economic laws then adopted, this association, now, in recognition of the efficient administration of said laws, directs its secretary to promulgate a reduction in rates."

More Than 15 Per Cent.

The southeastern makes specific announcement of these reductions which are to be "fifteen per cent in the final rating on all shingle or wooden roof dwelling houses, private garages, barns, and stables located in cities and towns; ten per cent in the final rating on all shingle or wooden roof farm dwellings, stables and barns; also 20 per cent reduction in the final rating on all having metal or other non-combustible roofs, and the reduction of 10 per cent in the final rating on all farm dwellings, barns and stables having metal or other non-combustible roofs."

The final resolution, is that the rates be made effective from November 12, the date of the conference with the insurance commissioner and in response to his letter to Paul R. Hufschlager local manager.

Mr. Anderson Gets to Work.

Charles H. Anderson will now present his petition, variously signed and circulated in his behalf as postmaster of Raleigh and will put his friends to work for him for the next two months that will stand between the present and the retiring officer, Willis G. Briggs.

Mr. Anderson's last letter to Congressman Pou carried a pretty radical promise. He told the congressman that if Mr. Anderson could not get a petition from three-fourths of the business people of the city that the candidacy for postmaster would be withdrawn and the promise of support two years hence would be unconditionally made. Mr. Pou does not refer to either of these sentences in his letter and Mr. Anderson's friends do not think the letter relates seriously to any of the propositions of the Raleigh man. For that matter, (Continued on Page Fifteen).

Alms-houses, infirmaries, hospitals, apartment houses or flats, asylums, boarding houses, churches, city properties (city halls or police barracks with city prisons or armories attached, either or both) city jails or prisons, stables owned by cities, club houses, convents, court houses, fire department houses, jails, market houses, schools and colleges, water-works (solely pumping stations)."

"These reductions are to be in addition to the reduction of 20 per cent in the final rating heretofore allowed on all city and town dwellings, private garages, barns, stables, having metal or other non-combustible roofs, and the reduction of 10 per cent in the final rating on all farm dwellings, barns and stables having metal or other non-combustible roofs."

Exports and Imports of Cotton Decreased

Figures Given Out Today by Census Bureau for Four Months' Period.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Cotton consumed during November amounted to 420,563 bales, exclusive of lint, compared with 456,356 bales consumed in November, 1913, according to a report made by the census bureau today.

The consumption for the four months ending November 30 was 1,671,375 bales, against 1,843,084 for the like period last year. The cotton on hand November 30 in factories was 1,960,765, compared with 1,426,635 a year ago. The exports were 760,929, 5,008,374, compared with 3,262,714 a year ago. The exports were 760,929, against 1,501,359 last year; and for four months 1,405,949, against 4,206,650 for the like period in 1913.

The imports were 12,354 bales, against 70,281 bales of last year; and for four months 67,828 bales, against 250,084 of last year.

The cotton spindles active were 30,441,315, against 29,949,337 of a year ago.

To Go to China.

Philadelphia, Dec. 14.—The University of Pennsylvania will send an expedition to China within a few days to explore and study the art, history and ethnology of the country, authorities of the institution announced last night.

WILL NOT SIGN PEACE APPEAL

Archbishop of Canterbury and German Court Chaplain Refuse to Urge Peace Appeal to Churches.

THEY HOPE, HOWEVER, FOR END OF FIGHTING

Apparently Believe Peace Must Be Founded on Triumph of Righteousness of the Countries' Cause.

London, Dec. 14.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—The Archbishop of Canterbury and Dr. Dryander, the German court chaplain, have refused to sign an appeal addressed to the Christian churches urging them among other things "seriously to keep peace before their eyes in order that bloodshed soon may cease."

The appeal has been signed by many prominent divines including Bishop Greer of New York and Bishop Tuttle of St. Louis. But although both the Anglican prelate and the German doctor of divinity are in entire accord with the signatories, as the correspondence just published makes plain, in devoutly hoping God may ordain that peace shall soon be restored, each is of the opinion, apparently, that the only peace to be desired is that founded on the triumph of righteousness of the countries' cause.

The Archbishop writes: "You may be certain that at the first moment when it seems to me that an opening is presented for securing a righteous and enduring peace I shall do my utmost to urge it, but I am clear that that moment, greatly as we long for it, has not yet come."

"The conflict which has been forced upon Europe (I impute no motive but merely state a fact) must, I fear, now that it has begun, proceed for the bringing to an issue the fundamental moral principle of faithfulness to a Nation's obligation to its solemnly pledged word. The recognition of the moral validity of such an obligation is fundamental to the maintenance of peace and progress among the nations of the world."

Dr. Dryander takes strong exception to a paragraph of the appeal which reads: "The tangle of underlying and active causes which accumulate in the course of time, and the breaking of peace, are left to history to unravel." He declares it would be impossible for him to sign that statement. He writes:

"History will certainly show to us in a different light much that we can not see through the dark clouds of dust arising from the arena of the present struggle. But that history will show only all the clearer—as has been done already—the righteousness of our cause, upon this firm conviction of ours are founded our good conscience, our confidence and our resolution in the terrible distress of the present time."

If anyone attacks on four sides and defends his life, he acts in self defense and fulfills a Christian duty. We are in this situation."

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POSTOFFICES TO SHOW SURPLUS

Mr. Burleson's Report Indicates Profit of \$3,569,545 in His Department for Fiscal Year.

ENORMOUS GROWTH RECORDED IN REPORT

Early Action Toward Government Ownership of Telegraph and Telephone Lines Recommended.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Asserting that for the first time since its organization by Benjamin Franklin, the postoffice department is on a self-sustaining basis, Postmaster General Burleson submitted to President Wilson today his annual report. It records enormous growth in the department's business because of the parcels post and postal savings bank divisions and recommends a program of postal legislation to increase the scope of the department's activities.

Mr. Burleson features his report with an estimate that a surplus of \$3,569,545, the second of his administration, will be shown for the fiscal year of 1914 when all claims and charges have been met. On that showing he bases his declaration that the department "has been securely placed upon a self-sustaining basis."

"It is safe to say," the report adds, "that unless unusual conditions should arise, resulting in abnormal depression of business, there is no danger of recurring deficiencies."

Legislative Wants.

The legislative program recommended is as follows as to its most important features:

Early action toward government ownership of telegraph and telephone lines and immediate taking over of these systems in Hawaii, Alaska, and Porto Rico. Transfer of the Alaska cable from war to postoffice department control.

Substitution of contract "star route" system for salaried rural carrier service to eliminate \$40,000,000 annual loss on rural delivery.

Postoffice co-operation with state governments in road building where improvements insure better postal service.

Raising maximum balance acceptable at postal banks from \$500 to \$2,000; interest payments to be limited to \$1,000. Removal of monthly deposit limit restriction.

Aerial mail service, where topography warrants, and extension of motor truck and automobile service in view of recent successful experiments.

Passage by senate of pending bills providing space basis of compensation for railroads on mail carried instead of weight basis.

Pending change in rural delivery system, computation of carriers salaries on basis of services performed, dependent on bulk of mail carried, to stimulate business.

Readjustment of postmasters salaries on basis of changes in business handled due to parcel post development.

Raising of second class rates on publications other than newspapers issued once a week from one to two cents a pound.

Granting the department legal jurisdiction over selection of sites and designs for postal buildings.

Parcels Post.

Of the parcel post during the last year the report says:

"Rapid growth of the parcel post vastly increased postal business during the year. The department's field of service has expanded at a phenomenal rate."

(Continued on Page 14.)

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