

# The Asheville Gazette News.

VOLUME XIX. NO. 278. ASHEVILLE, N. C., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 1, 1915. PRICE FIVE CENTS

## BRITISH BATTLESHIP FORMIDABLE IS SUNK

### 71 MEN OUT OF 750 ARE SAVED

Vessel Goes Down in English Channel Sunk Either by Mine or Submarine Attack.

### GEN. VON HINDENBURG CHECKED, RUSSIA SAYS

But Berlin Reports Conditions Are Everywhere Satisfactory Except in Galicia.

London, Jan. 1.—The British battleship Formidable has been sunk in the British channel either by a mine or by a submarine, according to an announcement by the official information bureau this morning. The text of the statement follows:

"The battleship Formidable has been sunk in the English channel, but whether it was by a mine or by a submarine has not been ascertained. Seventy-one survivors from the vessel were picked up by a British light cruiser, and it is possible that others may have been saved by other vessels."

The British battleship Formidable had a displacement of 15,000 tons and was 430 feet long. The vessel carried a complement of 750 men. She was heavily armed, having four 12-inch guns, twelve 6-inch guns and 16 twelve pounders. She was also provided with four submerged torpedo tubes.

The Formidable was launched in 1898 and was a sister ship of the Irresistible and the Implacable.

London, Jan. 1.—The close of five months of war in Europe finds the Germans still occupying virtually all of Belgium, important French territory in the west and a considerable strip of Russian Poland on the eastern front 1000 miles away. It appears that the Germans at least are unable to make further headway. British commentators call attention to the fact that the initiative for the moment appears to be with the allies and express the opinion that the recent published statement in Berlin to the effect that Germany was waging a defensive war was little less than an admission that the battle on two fronts 1000 miles apart was straining the resources of that great empire. However,

the English suffer no illusions concerning the task of the allies and recognize that the work of driving the Germans from France and Flanders is little less of an undertaking than Germany's engagement against a multiplicity of enemies. Hence the postponement of the allies' offensive on a grand scale until the army in the field can be reinforced by Lord Kitchener's new army. Meanwhile each army is continuing to feel the strength of its opponent, and General Joffre is exerting great pressure at points along the whole front to prevent the sending of German reinforcements to the east from the west.

The claim is advanced in Petrograd that Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, the German commander in Russian Poland, has been so successfully opposed that his advance on Warsaw seems definitely checked but Berlin declares that the situation in the east is everywhere satisfactory except in Galicia, where the Austrians were recently defeated. It is reported that Austria is preparing to organize an army of a million men to make another campaign against the Serbians and Montenegrins.

Representative Webb said yesterday that when the Matthews office is raised to the third class he will recommend the promotion of Postmaster T. J. Orr to fill the place, which will then pay \$1,100. Mr. Orr is postmaster in the fourth class office now. The office will be advanced to the third class January 1.

January 16, Saturday, at 1 o'clock an examination will be held at Lincoln to fill Representative Webb's vacancy at West Point. The place is held by Elton Abernethy of Hickory, who graduated in June.

Senators Overman and Simmons voted against the amendment to strike out the literacy test from the immigration bill today. They voted to bar polygamists and persons of the African or black race.

B. Frank Mebane, of Spray, was here yesterday. He is preparing to have a big cattle fair on his fine farm. He said today that the European war, with its lack at cotton, has advanced the south 100 years. He thinks the south should produce all the hogs and beef cattle needed in this country.

Berlin Glad of Protest. Berlin, Jan. 1.—In the absence of any striking battle news all Berlin newspapers print in a prominent place dispatches dealing with the American protest to Great Britain regarding the detention of American ships. The Lokal Anzeiger declares Great Britain will be obliged to grant all of America's principal demands since she dare not take an opponent of the United States who could cut off a great part of England's own importations.

Commentators on the situation in the east unite in attaching little importance to the reports of Russia's gain in Galicia. They declare the outcome will be decided further to the north where the German advance, they assert, is proceeding according to plans.

From army headquarters comes a denial of the report that Belgians captured 2,000 Germans in the fighting around Lombardye. The denial says that the Germans in the long trenches around Lombardye and Nieuport lost altogether in dead, wounded and missing only about 1,200 men.

Send Troops to Suez. Paris, Jan. 1.—A Havana dispatch from Athens says: "The Turks have sent important forces commanded by German officers toward Suez, according to members of the French clergy and nuns who have arrived here from Syria."

Archives Transferred. Athens (By way of London), Jan. 1. According to Constantinople advices, the Austrian and German archives are transferring their archives to Asia Minor, fearing action is to be begun by the enemy's fleet in the Dardanelles and against the Turkish capital. Many foreigners are preparing to leave for the interior.

Greece Ready for War. Paris, Jan. 1.—Havas Athens correspondent sends the following excerpt from a speech delivered by the (Continued on page 7)

## SOUTH SHOULD RAISE ITS HOGS AND CATTLE

Frank Mebane Says Europe's Lick at Cotton Has Advanced the South 100 Years.

Gazette-News Bureau, Wyatt Building, Washington, Jan. 1. Representative Webb said yesterday that when the Matthews office is raised to the third class he will recommend the promotion of Postmaster T. J. Orr to fill the place, which will then pay \$1,100. Mr. Orr is postmaster in the fourth class office now. The office will be advanced to the third class January 1.

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## POOR SALE FOR TREES IN LONDON THIS YEAR

London, Jan. 1.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—London marketmen realized this year more forcibly than ever the fact that the Christmas tree is distinctly a German institution. With all German merchandise either out of England or interned, the homes of the Germans who formerly lived in London have been disrupted with the result that there has been a marked decline in the demand for Christmas trees.

Germany originated the Christmas tree idea and have always been the best customers for trees. Norway has ordinarily supplied London with the trees, but trade between this country and Norway is now so badly disorganized because of naval operations and mine dangers that few trees have been received. Most of them are being cut in Sussex and Yorkshire this year.

## DEMAND FOR VESSELS HAS NOT FALLEN OFF

London, Jan. 1.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—There seems to be no falling off in the demand for new ships. Further orders have been placed this week for new steamers in the Clyde and Northeast coast yards, the orders for Clyde yards are said to be 11 steamers aggregating 54,000 tons, including a passenger steamer for the Atlantic trade of 16,000 tons. The Northeast coast yards are asked to supply about twelve cargo steamers and two oil-carrying vessels.

Steel makers are reaping a rich harvest through the present abnormal demand for shipbuilding material, especially those with works in close proximity to the yards where government contracts are being carried through with great dispatch.

## SOCIAL POVERTY IS CHARGED TO LIQUOR

Topeka, Kas., Jan. 1.—Traffic in liquor is one of the greatest causes of social poverty and waste, according to Harry G. McCain, extension secretary of the Methodist church, who spoke today before the national convention of the Intercollegiate Prohibition Association, in session here. He declared that a great force for the improvement of social conditions lies in the organization of college men to work for prohibition.

## PUBLIC WORKS TO GIVE RELIEF

New York Improvements May Be Started at Once to Give Work to the Unemployed.

## IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE ANY TIME

Other Steps Being Taken to Relieve Distress by the Mayor's Unemployed Committee.

New York, Jan. 1.—First aid to the unemployed, as proposed by the mayor's unemployed committee, of which Elbert H. Gary is chairman, will be to ask the city to start immediately work on all public improvements. At a meeting of the committee on immediate relief, in the City club, Henry Erere, city chamberlain, suggested that the relief organization canvass the city departments to learn what work is to be done soon.

Instead of waiting for spring, members of the committee believe that the city departments may well begin their improvements at once and by providing employment through the winter better serve the public than could be done when warm weather comes. The 1915 budget provides for a vast amount of new work, and it is within the discretion of the department heads to designate when it shall be done.

Unlike most committees of its kind, this relief body will not make a general appeal to the public for funds. Mr. Gary and his associates are working with the numerous charity societies which are supported by public contributions.

It is suggested that further necessary assistance be made of loans to those in distress. Another committee will prepare a statement addressed to the public setting forth the purposes and aims of the mayor's general committee of churches and all other semi-public institutions.

Commissioner Kingsbury, of the department of charities, has organized a new branch in his bureau for social investigation. Dr. Edward T. Devine, for many years secretary of the charity organization society, has been named director in charge.

## ABOUT \$95,000 GOES TO ENGLISH SAILORS

Captors of German Barques Get Handsome Sum From Their Recent Sale.

London, Jan. 1.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—The men of the warships which captured the German barques Goldbek and Perkeo will have about nineteen thousand pounds or \$95,000 to divide among them from the sale of these vessels which were recently put up at auction. The Perkeo went to a Norwegian buyer for \$81,000. The Goldbek passed to another Norwegian firm at the price of \$64,000.

The sale of the Perkeo aroused interest because she is the largest sailing vessel afloat. She can load nearly 5,000 tons of cargo. She was launched under a British registry on the Clyde in 1891, and was first known as the Beilham. Shortly before the outbreak of the war she was sold to the "P" line of clipper of Hamburg, and Captain Nissen was placed in command.

Captain Nissen was skipper of the famous five-masted barque Preussen, which was wrecked in a storm off Dover three years ago, when the officers and crew acted with such gallantry that the Kaiser sent a congratulatory telegram.

The Perkeo was dispatched by her new German owners to New York on her first trip, but was intercepted off Dover on August 5, by U. S. S. Zulu. Captain Nissen, in sight of the spot where his old charge, the Preussen, left her bones, endeavored to escape by hoisting the Union Jack. But he ran up the true colors when a shot pierced her foremast.

## SWEDISH RAILWAYS MAY REDUCE RATES

Christiania, Norway, Jan. 1.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—In view of the closing of navigation through the Baltic on account of mines, the Swedish railways are making arrangements with the Norwegian minister of railways for a reduction in rates, particularly on lumber, thus facilitating the export of Swedish lumber through Norwegian ports.

## LACY WANTS TO DRAW INTEREST

State Treasurer Favors Interest on Daily Balances of State's Money in the Various Banks.

## BALANCE OF \$21,876 SHOWN IN REPORT

The Collections for Two Years Amount to \$6,577,053.87—Estimated \$275,000 Increase Next 2 Years.

Raleigh, Jan. 1.—Treasurer B. R. Lacy's biennial report to Governor Craig filed yesterday afternoon, shows a balance of \$21,876.47 with all outstanding vouchers credited to the balance of \$144,572.23 reported by the legislature auditing committee a few days ago.

The treasurer declares himself favorable to interest on daily balances recommended by the committee. He tells why he has carried money for a longer period than he generally does owing to delay in the purchasers of bonds and the unsettled financial conditions. When he found the state to have sufficient money to pay all obligations, he let it go. "But it is advisable," Mr. Lacy says, "for the treasurer to have authority to collect interest on such balances as would warrant."

The report shows for the two years reported collections amounting to \$6,577,053.87. This is an estimate for 1915 and 1916. It is based upon 1913-1914, the years showing the workings of the department of which he is the head. It also includes the estimate upon the increase for the two years ending the Atlantic and North Carolina railway dividends amounting to \$75,996 and the North Carolina railroad's \$420,028, the insurance companies license and tax on receipts of \$425,817.46, the private corporations yielding \$596,491.45 and the public corporations contributing \$67,859.51, give to the state almost as much revenue as the counties. The inheritance tax of \$36,571.52 is inconsequential, but the suits in court now are expected to bring about \$100,000 additional.

Treasurer Lacy estimates \$275,000 increase for the next two years. He banks on the change in assessment. He says there are no floating debts outstanding.

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## A HALF MILLION PRISONERS HELD

## TEST OF LITERACY WILL LIKELY PASS

Attempts to Strike Out Test in Immigration Bill Defeated in the Senate.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Efforts to strike the literacy test from the pending immigration bill failed in the senate yesterday. Senator Martine's motion to eliminate the provision was defeated 47 to 12. This was considered a test vote on the bill itself, which senate leaders expect to pass Saturday.

Amendments were voted on in quick succession. Two were adopted, one to exclude all immigrants of African blood, or the black race, and another to strengthen the prohibition against believers in polygamy. All amendments to the literacy test were voted down, including those which would have added to its exemption persons fleeing from the religious persecution and those who might seek asylum from political or racial persecution. On the motion to eliminate the literacy test senators who voted for it were Brandegee, Clark of Wyoming, LaFollette, LaPlitt, McCumber, Lewis, McLean, Martine, O'Gorman, Ransdell, Reed and Walsh.

Senator Reed offered the African exclusion amendment, which was adopted 29 to 25. Senator Williams of Mississippi debated this proposal at length, declaring there were enough negroes in this country now. Statistics were given to show that only 8,000 people of African blood came to this country last year.

Another amendment by Senator Reed to exclude all but persons of the Caucasian race was defeated but not without considerable discussion relating to the Japanese. Many senators declared it would affect treaty relations.

## A QUIET DAY AT NATIONAL CAPITAL

No Diplomatic Celebration of New Year—Only Greetings Exchanged.

Washington, Jan. 1.—New Year in the national capital was unusually quiet because the formal mourning on account of the death of Mrs. Wilson continues. There were no receptions, the annual diplomatic breakfast with the secretary of state was omitted. In official and diplomatic circles, the usual exchange of greetings was observed. Many diplomats were unable to greet each other because they are formal enemies.

Congress adjourned until Saturday. President Wilson arose at 3 o'clock for the purpose of pushing a button which opened the San Diego exposition at midnight, Pacific coast time. He spent the day quietly and in receiving greetings.

## PROOFS THAT WHISKEY IS NATIONAL QUESTION

If State Issue Why Does Federal Government Grant License, St. John Asks.

Topeka, Kansas, Jan. 1.—"If the liquor traffic is a state and not a national issue why does the national government place a heavy tax and grant license for such business?" John T. St. John, first prohibition governor of Kansas, put this question before the national convention of the Intercollegiate Prohibition Association. "If it is purely a state matter," he asked, "why does a federal government employ carry the keys to the liquor storehouses of the distillers?" The contention that whiskey is purely a state issue has no foundation in history, justice or common sense.

The speaker declared that there would be a prohibition amendment to the constitution not later than 1917, that it would be ratified by three-fourths of the states not later than 1920, and that within five years the liquor politicians and the liquor newspapers would be ready to swear that they had always been for prohibition.

## Germans Claim to Have 8138 Officers and 577,875 Men of Allied Forces as Prisoners of War.

## CIVILIANS INTERNED ARE NOT CONSIDERED

Russian Prisoners in Majority, With French, Belgian and British Following in Order Named.

Berlin, Jan. 1.—The war prisoners in Germany at the close of the old year numbered 8138 officers and 577,875 men, according to a summary issued today by the German army headquarters, which points out that this number does not include the prisoners taken during the pursuit in Russian Poland, nor those in transport from the various fields to Germany; neither are the civilians interned in Germany included.

Of the total number, the French prisoners consisted of 3459 officers, including seven generals, and 216,965 men; the Russians, 3515 officers, including 13 generals, and 304,290 men; the Belgians 612 officers including three generals, and 36,852 men; the British, 492 officers and 13,828 men.

The headquarters report declares that the statement that there are 1149 German officers and 124,700 private soldiers prisoners of war in Russia is misleading, since the number includes the civilian Germans interned in that country, and adds that it is probable that not more than 15 per cent of the total number are military prisoners.

## ITALIANS ARE PLEASED WITH AMERICAN NOTE

Officials Believe Protest to England Will Serve to Establish Better Rules.

Rome, Dec. 31.—(Delayed)—The American note of protest to Great Britain, against the British fleet's interference with American merchantmen, has produced an excellent impression on Italian officials, who believe that the note may not only tend to avert the same difficulties in regard to Italy but that it may also lead to the creation of a better set of international rules for the protection of the commerce of neutral countries while at the same time safeguarding the rights of belligerents. The American ambassador here is working for the amelioration of the conditions which are interfering with American commerce, and the feeling prevails that the rights of Americans and Italians are in unison and that every effort should be used to relieve the situation.

## NEW YORK CELEBRATION LASTED 'TILL SUNRISE

Record-Breaking Crowds of People Thronged Broadway Restaurants.

New York, Jan. 1.—Daylight failed to quell the noisy and enthusiastic greetings of the New Year in New York. Along Broadway, the celebration which began last night continued this morning and police officials declared that it was the biggest celebration of its kind in the history of the city. Record-breaking crowds thronged the restaurants and at sun-up the proprietors were still turning would-be patrons away from their doors.

## TEN KILLED IN WRECK

London, Jan. 1.—Ten people were killed and many were injured in the wreck of a train of the Great Eastern railway near Hilford, about five miles from London, today. Some of the coaches were reduced to splinters. The majority of the passengers on the train were clerks who have employment in the city.

## Late Official War News

Vienna, Jan. 1.—(By Way of Amsterdam and London)—The official announcement concerning the progress of the war, made public today in the Austrian capital, refers to events of yesterday and is as follows: "In Bukovina and in the Carpathians the Russian are developing great activity. Our troops are holding positions on the Suzzawa river and in the upper Carpathian territory; also further to the west of the ridge of the Carpathians and in the vicinity of Nagayak yesterday, near Ockormene, a Russian attack was repulsed with heavy losses to the ene-

my; in the Latoroca district and north of the Usok pass. To the west, positions in all the other passages are occupied by us. "In the district of Gorlice and northeast of Baklicayu, determined Russian attacks were repulsed by us everywhere. "On the Nida, everything is quiet. Further to the north, the attacks of our allies are progressing. "In the Balkans, everything is quiet. "To the east of Trubhago, our artillery has compelled the Montenegrin forces to retreat."

## IMPROVING IN SOUTH

Washington, Jan. 1.—Fairfax Harrison, president of the Southern railway, declared today that conditions were improving throughout the south; that the demand for cotton was increasing; and he insisted that conditions would continue to improve by reason of the fact that southern planters had prepared to reduce their cotton acreage and plant more small grain and raise livestock instead.