

IMPORTANT EVENTS ON VARIOUS BATTLEFIELDS

RUSSIANS BEGIN NEW ACTIVITIES

After Virtual Deadlock of Several Weeks, Several Fresh Movements Come Rather Unexpectedly.

RUSSIANS ADVANCE ON GERMAN FRONTIER

Renewed Attempt Against Serbia by Austro-German Forces—German Victory at Soissons Conceded.

London, Jan. 16.—Out of the virtual deadlock which has obtained on the various fields of battle during the past several weeks, has sprung during the last few days military events of more importance than followers of the war had expected at this time: The Russian offensive at several new points on the frontiers of east Prussia and Posen; the fighting near Soissons; the expected invasion of Egypt by the Turks; and the plan for a renewed attack on Serbia by the combined Austro-German forces. West of Warsaw large German forces are concentrating, but it appears, however, that they are gaining little ground, and it is thought likely that the fighting which is now developing from the new Russian movement will overshadow the previous battles for the possession of the Polish capital. It is even suggested that General Von Hindenburg, held in check on the banks of the Bzura and Rawka rivers, is awaiting the initiation of a movement by the German troops, either from Thorn or East Prussia, but the Russian advance toward the German frontiers is expected to forestall the attempts.

The British observers concede the German victories in the recent fighting near Soissons, remarking that is refreshing, after so many conflicting claims, to find that the combatants can agree on results.

TRADITIONAL CUSTOM IS STILL INVOLATE

Entire State Is Back in Democratic Column, With Governor and Assembly.

Rome, Jan. 15.—Since news was announced that Pope Benedict had visited the injured at the Santa Maria hospital, leaving the Vatican and thus interrupting the traditional imprisonment of the pope always adhered to by Pius IX., Leo and Pius X. after the fall of the papal temporal power, as a protest against Italian occupation, it has been pointed out that the pope did not really leave the Vatican, but, passing through the Apostolic palace inside of St. Peter's, reached the hospital without touching Italian soil. His predecessor did the same when he visited the hospital after the Messina disaster.

Rev. Daniel Atkins will preach on "The Great Conflict" at the morning service at the North Asheville M. E. church tomorrow. The male quartet will sing both morning and evening.

VICTIMS STILL ONLY ESTIMATED

From What Is Known of Extent of Earthquake Disaster, 20,000 Are Dead and 40,000 Are Injured.

RESCUERS PROCEED IN FEVERISH HASTE

Needs of Victims Who Escaped Death Are Urgent—Temporary Homes Are Being Erected.

Rome, Jan. 15.—The rescue and relief work is progressing with feverish haste in the earthquake stricken districts of Italy. Thousands of soldiers are at work, digging the dead bodies and injured persons out of the ruins and burying the victims, as well as caring for the survivors. The needs of those who escaped death are pressing as almost all of them are homeless and penniless; and the people from the king down are doing all they possibly can to alleviate their condition. The cold weather, which continues, adds to the sufferings of the victims, and temporary buildings of wood are being erected as fast as possible to house them.

The list of dead and injured can still only be estimated, but from what is known it is believed that the number of killed with reach 20,000, with twice as many injured—at Avezzano—probably 10,000 killed, at Sorra about 4,000, with the remainder of the victims scattered among three score or more of towns and villages. Just how severe the disaster was in the Marsica district, in which Avezzano is located, and how great the suffering is, can best be told in a telegram sent to Pope Benedict by Monsignor Bagnoli, the bishop of the region. The message says: "The Marsica diocese is transformed into a great cemetery. Avezzano, Chappelle and Palermo are razed and almost all the inhabitants are dead. The ecclesiastics are some dead and some wounded. Few of the villages were immune. General desolation is reigning. The immensity of the disaster grows as more and more is learned of its extent."

More wounded persons were brought to the Santa Maria hospital today, and Pope Benedict again visited the hospital to comfort the sufferers. To each one he gave a medal. King Victor Emmanuel and the Queen Mother Margherita called at various hospitals in Rome to visit the injured.

American Ambassador Page will visit the injured. American Ambassador Page will visit afflicted regions today or tomorrow. Several of the staff of the American embassy visited the scenes of the disaster yesterday. They state there were no Americans among the victims, although there were some who claimed American citizenship.

Col. George M. Dunn, American military attaché, motored to Avezzano yesterday and returned to Rome last night. "Never had I dreamed of such a horrible situation," said Col. Dunn. "The whole town is a ruin; every house is down. Only three stables were intact. Churches, palaces and dwellings had crumbled, and the streets are full of debris, in some places six or seven feet deep. In a short time the rescue work will be useless as all of the buried victims who are alive will soon be dead. The entire population is extinct, the people being either dead or wounded in hospitals. The dead in the ruins compose the greater percentage of the inhabitants."

Col. Dunn declared that Avezzano is now provided with all the necessary supplies, and that the attention of the rescuers will now be directed to the smaller towns and villages. Trains are now running regularly to the earthquake district and on their return are filled with injured. A committee of American women has been formed to assist in the relief work. It is headed by Mrs. Page, wife of the American Ambassador, and includes the other women of the embassy. Mrs. Page has contributed \$500 to the relief fund.

SIMMONS FAVORS SESSION AT NIGHT

Senior North Carolina Senator Believes Ship Purchase Bill Can Be Passed.

Gazette-News Bureau, Washington, Jan. 15.

A caucus of senate democrats has been called for tomorrow afternoon to discuss ways and means for putting President Wilson's ship purchase bill through the senate before March 4. It is very probable that the caucus will decide to have day and night sessions until the bill is brought to a vote.

At least Senator Simmons would have this rather drastic action taken. He stated to The Gazette-News representative yesterday that he is in favor of making the shipping bill the unfinished business of the senate and then hold day and night sessions until a vote is reached. The senior senator would have this legislation given the right of way over everything, including appropriation bills.

Republican senators have been conducting a filibuster on the president's measure for the past week. Those democrats who are assisting Mr. Wilson have decided that the only way to break up this practice is to wear their republican brethren out by keeping them at work constantly.

While the vote in the senate will be close, Senator Simmons thinks he has counted enough to put it over. The senior Tar Heel senator is generally right when he says he has the votes. So it is believed he knows what he is talking about now.

It is learned from high authority that Representative Henry, chairman of the house rules committee, has a bill in his pocket asking for a special rule limiting debate upon the shipping measure. The rule will not be brought in until the day the bill passes the senate. Immediately upon action by the senate the house will begin consideration under what is termed the "flag rule."

Few democrats who have studied the situation believe the bill can be passed in the lower branch of congress. The president's friends are busy, however, and he may be able to corral enough to put it over. But since election the president's influence has been on the wane with house members. Nigh unto 100 democrats have been retired from congress by their constituents. Hence they are voting according to their own convictions rather than what they know would please the president.

Representative Guder made these recommendations for postoffice appointments: Charles R. McNeely, Texaway; William Fowler, Glenville; and A. W. Ageer, Proctor.

THREE LOSE LIVES ON YACHT "JULIA"

Tragedy Occurs Near Long Shore When Gasoline Tank Explodes.

Special to The Gazette-News.

New Bern, Jan. 15.—J. W. Murray, president of the Piedmont Tug company of Burlington, Mrs. W. E. Poreh, wife of the manager of "Ye Old Colony Inn" of Beaufort; and G. P. Dodson, of Norfolk, Va., are known to have been killed or drowned when the gasoline tanks of the yacht Julia exploded early yesterday morning near Long Shore river, at a point about twenty miles from Englehard, Hyde county, and the vessel sank before any assistance could reach her or her occupants.

Mrs. J. W. Murray, who was on board the vessel with her husband, succeeded in swimming to shore, two miles distant. The fate of the crew is problematical, as it is almost impossible to secure any definite information in regard to the catastrophe. This catastrophe is one of the most appalling to occur in the waters of eastern North Carolina in years. Mr. Murray, who was one of the owners of "Ye Old Colony Inn" at Beaufort, had gone to Norfolk early in the week, accompanied by his wife and Mrs. Joseph Poreh, wife of the manager of the inn, to purchase the yacht Julia from G. P. Dodson of that city.

J. M. CHILES OF THIS CITY DEAD

One of Asheville's Most Prominent Business Men Succumbs After a Long Continued Illness.

Body to Arrive Here Tomorrow Afternoon

The Deceased Was in Augusta Seeking to Improve His Health When the End Came.

A message was received here this morning telling of the death in Augusta of J. M. Chiles of this city, of the firm of Moale & Chiles, which occurred at an early hour today. The message stated that the body would arrive in Asheville tomorrow night at 8:10 o'clock.

In the death of Mr. Chiles, Asheville has lost one of the most prominent and influential business men of the city, a man who stood high in the estimation of all who knew him and was beloved by a host of friends made during the years he had lived in this city.

The deceased left here last fall for Philadelphia, where he entered a hospital upon the advice of his physician, being a sufferer from Bright's disease. About the first part of this month, he left Philadelphia for Augusta, and it is thought that in his weakened condition the trip was too much for him, for he steadily grew worse until death came at an early hour today.

With him at his death were his wife, Dr. P. R. Moale, a business associate who left here yesterday, and a trained nurse from Asheville.

Mr. Chiles was a native of Mississippi and was 51 years of age. He was for many years a train dispatcher in that state, being located for some time at McCombe City. He left there for Clifton Forge, Va., where he held a similar position with the C. & A. Railroad company and first came to Asheville in 1898, being a dispatcher in the employ of the Southern Railroad company until 1905, when he was made chief dispatcher for the Queen & Crescent Railroad company with headquarters at Somerset, Ky. He resigned that position to return to Asheville, coming here the second time in 1905, and became a partner in the real estate firm of LaBarbe, Moale & Chiles. This firm was later changed to Moale & Chiles and was one of the city's oldest and strongest real estate firms.

He was very active in the business and social life of the city and for many years was a director in the board of trade and the Y. M. C. A., until his duties became such that he felt he could not devote the proper amount of time to these organizations.

In 1909, Mr. Chiles married Miss Jane McCurdy of Evansville, Ind., who survives him.

BONDS FOR SHIPS

Washington, Jan. 15.—The release on bond of ships retained in the British prize courts will be permitted by the British government if the judge of the court is willing, according to a statement issued by the British embassy.

The first message telling of the tragedy was received here from Belhaven by Solicitor Charles L. Abernathy, the former owner of the inn, in the afternoon in communication with Mr. Poreh and informed him of the affair.

The yacht Julia was 42 feet in length and was handsomely fitted in quarters for eight persons and a carrying capacity of 35 persons. She was equipped with gasoline engines, and the tanks supplying these held 30 to 40 gallons of fuel. Mrs. Murray is being cared for at Englehard, and a search is being made to recover if possible the bodies of those who lost their lives.

DISCUSS WOMEN NOTARIES BILL

Little Opposition to Woman Holding Such Post as But Some Doubt Constitutionality of Proposal.

Two Houses Engrossed With Local Matters

Senator Weaver of Buncombe Introduces Child Labor Bill—Question of Visiting Committees Deferred.

(By W. T. Bost.)

Raleigh, Jan. 15.—The two houses of the general assembly were engaged in a mass of local matter yesterday, neither taking up the question of sending visiting committees to the state institutions as they had expected to do Thursday.

The minority report of the committee which had before it the unfavorable report on the proposition to discontinue this more or less delightful custom, came in, and it will come up for hearing either today or Monday. A strong protest from the minority has been indicated. This was a resolution of Henry A. Pace, and with him are Stacy and Faircloth, democrat and republican.

Feminism in very mild form appeared. The bill to make women notaries public found little opposition from considerations of sex, but from constitutionality. Chief Justice Clark has held that women are entitled to hold such positions, if they are positions, but the judge hasn't always been with the majority of his court.

The intellectual feature was the speech of Dr. Edwin A. Alderman who is here as the guest of Governor and Mrs. Craig. Bills passed final reading as follows: Amend the joint resolution providing for the placing of the statue of Governor Vance in Statuary Hall, Washington. This is the resolution by Senator Weaver that provides that the committee authorized to select and set up the statue shall have the power to set up either a marble or a bronze statue instead of limiting it to a marble statue as the original act does.

Relating to agricultural societies: This is a bill making an appropriation of \$50 to each county to aid in the holding of county fairs.

Adjournment of the senate was to 11 o'clock Saturday.

The Senate. Lieutenant Governor Deanebridge convened the senate at 11 o'clock.

New bills were introduced as follows: McMichael—Prevent public service corporations from giving franchises or free service of any kind.

Ward—mend the law as to the salaries of clerks and stenographers.

Weaver—Restrict the employment of children.

Thompson, of Iredell—Exempt churches and other institutions of similar character from the operation of the inheritance tax.

Thompson of Iredell—Make it unlawful to give intoxicating drinks to minors.

The bill to authorize women to hold the office of notary public on an equality with men was read and Senator Ward, who said he would like to see all the women hold such an office, objected to the bill on the ground that it is clearly unconstitutional and to pass it would be to do a vain thing.

Senator McMichael said the matter could be put up to the supreme court so that court could decide it once for all. He mentioned the act to allow women to serve on school boards as in line with this. Senator Ward said he would be willing to support the bill if the Governor would agree not to appoint women notaries generally until the Supreme court has passed on the constitutionality of the act, as only in this way could a mass of invalid legal instruments throughout the state be asserted in the event women were appointed generally and then in process of the test case it were found that the women could not serve in such an office under the constitution. The bill was finally made a special order for Saturday. In the meantime the author of the bill, Senator Miller, will confer with Governor Craig as to the possibility of merely appointing one woman notary under the act for a test case and then waiting until the courts pass on the constitutionality of the act.

The House. Speaker Wooten convened the house at 11 o'clock. He immediately laid before the house the matter of the embargoed condition of the Wilkesboro-Jefferson turnpike which is advertised to be sold under judgment for \$7,000 borrowed money January 18, explaining that the state holds \$43,810 stock in the road for convict labor.

New bills were introduced as follows: Benton—Amend chapter 173 laws of 1913 as to compulsory school attendance.

Macon—Amend the public health laws of the state.

NEW CHARTER WANTED HERE

Jones—Repeal a local law as to a bridge in Jackson county.
Dean—Repeal a law relating to the school laws in Macon county.
Brockett—Raise the age of consent from fourteen to sixteen years.
Hutchinson—Amend the law for the conservation of the lives of goats and calves.
Carr—Increase fourth class pensions from \$32 to \$38.
The following bills passed third reading: The act extending the corporate limits of Bushnell.
Consolidate Bills.
Representative Vann asked to introduce a resolution out of order in the hope of expediting bills bearing on the same subject, as for instance, the state-wide primary bill and constitutional amendments. He set the limit for two weeks when all bills bearing on the same measure shall be worked out by a committee. It passed immediately.

Asheville Citizens Voted Unanimously Last Night to Ask Assembly for a Commission Charter.

REPRESENTATIVE MEN PACKED COURT HOUSE

Central Committee Named to Draft Charter—Adjourned Meeting to Pass Upon It Friday Night.

The court room of the Buncombe county court house was packed last night, and the corridors outside were jammed, with Asheville people who responded to the call issued several days ago for a mass meeting to consider the question of whether a change in the form of municipal government is desired here. It was a gathering that was entirely representative of the citizenship here; and it was unanimous in its endorsement of a commission form of government for Asheville. There was not a single dissenting vote on the resolution presented by Julius C. Martin, in which it was set forth that the people here desire the Buncombe county legislators to enact a commission form charter to be submitted to a popular vote at an election to be held not later than March 15.

Immediately following the adoption of this resolution, the question arose as to what plan should be formulated to draft a charter and present the matter to the general assembly now in session. The following resolution, introduced by L. B. Rogers, was adopted on this point following some discussion, the resolution providing for the presidents of the four organizations which called the mass meeting, the Asheville board of trade, Merchants' association, Central Labor Union and University club, to name a central committee of 20 to draft, or have drafted, a suitable charter, the same to be considered at an adjourned meeting next Friday night.

Resolved, That the following committee be named, consisting of the presidents of the following organizations: Board of trade, merchants' association, central labor union, and the University club, to retire at this time and report back in the next few minutes, naming a central committee of twenty citizens to take the matter in charge and draft a bill for commission government for Asheville, same to be submitted back to a future mass meeting of citizens for ratification.

Upon the adoption of this resolution over a substitute providing for the chairman to name a committee that would subsequently select a central committee, the organization presidents retired from the hall and selected the following to represent all citizens of Asheville in the matter of drafting a charter: From the board of trade, F. M. Weaver, E. C. Chambers, T. S. Morrison, George S. Powell, W. B. Northup, From the Central Labor Union, J. H. Lindsey, O. R. Jarrett, Curtis Bynum, Thomas A. Jones, Zeb C. Fisher, From the Merchants' association, L. B. Rogers, Arch Nichols, William Farr, G. F. Stridley, C. Sawyer, From the University club, Dr. M. H. Fletcher, Mark W. Brown, D. Hiden Ramsey, James Woodward, A. L. Diggs, Judge H. B. Stevens, chairman.

At the conclusion of the meeting, there was a meeting of the committee, when the following were named as a sub-committee to have active charge of formulating the provisions of the new city charter: L. B. Rogers, chairman; Judge T. A. Jones, Curtis Bynum, F. M. Weaver, D. Hiden Ramsey, Chairman H. B. Stevens.

The mass meeting last night was opened by President W. Vance Brown of the Asheville board of trade, who immediately called Judge Henry B. Stevens to the chair and moved his election as permanent chairman. His selection was unanimous, and the manner in which he conducted the affairs of the meeting proved the wisdom of his selection. He accepted in a short but very appropriate address, in which he reviewed briefly the conditions existing here relative to a desired change in the system of city government; and also told of the success of commission government in the 250 cities and towns of the United States in which it has been tried out. Upon the conclusion of his address, Judge Stevens threw the meeting open for discussion of the question and, upon the motion of A. L. Diggs, D. Hiden Ramsey was asked to come forward and explain in detail the working of the commission system. He responded in an eloquent manner, telling those present just how this form of government redeemed Galveston after it had been devastated by fire and flood; and subsequently has brought many cities and towns from the depths of debt to the heights of prosperity. He condemned the

THOMAS C. RYE IS NOW AT HELM IN TENNESSEE

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 15.—With the inauguration of Thomas C. Rye of Paris as governor, Tennessee returned to democratic rule. At noon the governor-elect took the oath of office succeeding Ben. W. Hooper, republican, who has held the office since January 25, 1911. The legislature is overwhelmingly democratic.

ENGLAND OBJECTS TO MEXICAN OIL EMBARGO

Washington, Jan. 15.—The British ambassador has made urgent representations to the state department against the Carranza embargo on oil exports from Mexico at Tampico. The British navy draws on this supply for fuel.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER ANTHONY CAMINETTI



Washington, Jan. 15.—A national employment bureau, reaching into every part of the United States will be put into operation by the department of labor, according to the Commissioner, Anthony Caminetti, who has completed all the arrangements. The idea was suggested by President Wilson. Mr. Caminetti is commissioner of immigration and his department is largely interested in the plan to find jobs for unemployed men.

Notices will be posted in all postoffices announcing that applications for work will be received by the postmaster. These applications will be forwarded to the labor department agent in the zone in which the postoffice is located. The department of agriculture will send in the list of places where help is needed and the applications will be forwarded to these places.

Mr. Caminetti submitted his report on immigration yesterday. Funeral services over the body of Miss Willow Smith, aged 17, who died at her home in this city last Thursday, were held this morning from Fairview church and interment followed at Riverview cemetery.