

A BATTLESHIP FORCES STRAIT

At Least One French War Vessel Has Passed Through the Dardanelles, Unofficial Statements Say.

ATTACK NOT BELIEVED MERE DEMONSTRATION

Russians Claim to Have Forced Germans Back Along 25 Miles Front—French Report Progress.

London, Feb. 27.—British and French warships continue to hamper away at the door of the Dardanelles, which closes Russia's granary; and the necessity of releasing the wheat accumulated on the shores of the Black sea has led to the general belief that the attack is a serious undertaking and not merely a demonstration.

An official announcement declares that after the reduction of the four outer forts a mine sweeper was put to work in the strait for the protection of the guns of the fleet. Unofficial dispatches from Athens and Rome are to the effect that at least one French warship had actually penetrated the passage.

The Germans remain silent in regard to their share of military operations, both in the east and in the west. The Austrian statements declare that the Austrians and Germans are holding their own in the Carpathians and in eastern Galicia.

Petrograd, less reticent, announces the repulse of a German attack in North Poland, with heavy German losses. As a result of the desperate fighting, the Russian general staff claims to have forced back the Germans along a front of 25 miles in the Przasnysz region.

The impression is growing in England that the German advance in East Prussia was due mainly to political and economical motives and consequently is without great strategic effect on the eastern campaign as a whole.

In the west the French continue to claim advances in the Champagne district with quiet along the rest of the line.

The ship building strike in London is causing some concern but the prompt action of the government in ordering a resumption of work during arbitration of the difficulty is expected to settle the trouble.

Merchantman Torpedoed.
Dieppe, France, Feb. 27.—It is reported that a British merchant ship has been torpedoed in the English channel off Saint Valery Sur Somme. A French torpedo boat destroyer has gone out from Dieppe to the assistance of the British ship.

May Yet Escape.
London, Feb. 27.—A Petrograd dispatch to the Times says that several units of the Twentieth corps of the Russian army which was surrounded by Germans in its retreat from East Prussia are still fighting stubbornly and will probably be able to re-join the main Russian army.

Austrian Advance Checked.
London, Feb. 27.—The Austrian advance into east Galicia has been checked and the Russians, driving back their opponents, have recaptured Stanislaw and Kolomea, says an Evening News telegram from Herts, Roumania.

DOUGHTON WON ON ASSESSORS

Passes Section of Machinery Act Providing for One Tax Assessor for County and One for Township.

OVER 1600 BILLS ARE INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

Passage of Bynum Divorce Bill on Second Reading Gives Fright to the Church People.

(By W. T. Bost.)

Raleigh, Feb. 27.—Rufus A. Doughton, who wrote more of the machinery act than any member of the finance committee, fought all the amendment mongers on a standstill yesterday afternoon on section 14 and passed that barrier when the bell rang for dinner.

The house took the machinery bill up Thursday afternoon and went to the fourteenth section before it had any trouble. There Representative Allen offered a change for the new act by substituting substantially the 1911 act. The Allen amendment played much of a part. Champions all over the house showed the opposition to the Doughton act dangerous. The body adjourned and after sleeping on the bill, it won without change.

The talk of centralization in Raleigh, of corporation commission control and of making government to order was pretty free yesterday. The republicans did as much as it as anybody and there were only 20 in the house to create the conversation. Mr. Doughton laughed that sort of language down. He yielded to no suggestion of change. He said his committee had done all that it could. It wasn't a thing to fuss over. Mr. Doughton and the finance committee wanted a county tax assessor and one township assessor in each township but the Allen motion would eliminate the county assessor and put three assessors each in the several townships. That was all that the controversy amounted to, but Governor Doughton called for the ayes and nays when the vote was ready and Mr. Allen lost 50 to 60.

And that was the end of the house energies. Bills enough to run the grand total well above 1600 were presented. Today and Monday will see the introduction of new measures. Night sessions daily will be necessary. The house has not touched the primary act.

The passage of the Bynum divorce bill on second reading gave the church people a fright. They were expecting Representative Small's bill aiming at the double standard of morality and the Bynum bill came on first.

It passed safely on second reading but lacked the two-thirds vote for suspending the rules. Ministers have been agitating the lower house to attend the meeting in which final passage is expected. They hope to defeat the bill which they regard a loose law.

DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON KARL VOGELSANG

German Soldier Charged With Killing French Wounded and Other Things.

Rennes, France, Feb. 27.—Karl Vogelsang, a German soldier of the Twenty-sixth Saxon Infantry has been sentenced to death by a French court martial, having been found guilty of pillaging under arms, of arson and of dispatching wounded French soldiers. Among the evidence on which the verdict was founded were entries in Vogelsang's own diary, which was found on the person when he was captured last September. He denied that he had killed French wounded but admitted the other charges, declaring that he had acted under orders.

NATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE OPENS TODAY; PEACE PLAN

Chicago, Feb. 27.—The National Peace conference opened here today to adopt a plan by which the influence of the American people might be exerted for early peace in Europe. Peace advocates from all parts of the country were present. The conference is under the auspices of the Emergency Federated Peace force.

ARGUMENTS ENDED IN CASE OF FRANK

Supreme Court Decision Not Expected for at Least Several Weeks.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Arguments in the Northern Georgia Federal court's decision refusing a writ of habeas corpus to Leo M. Frank, under death sentence for the death of Mary Phagan, have been concluded before the United States Supreme court. A decision probably will not be given for at least several weeks.

Should the Supreme court affirm the decision of the lower Federal court no legal obstacle, it is said, would stand in the way of carrying out the death sentence. If the ruling is reversed, counsel for Frank and the state told the court the case must go back to the district court for the taking of evidence on which the allegations for the petition for the writ were based.

Frank's attorneys informed the court that should the writ be granted Frank could be tried again under the pending indictment. The state's counsel questioned this assertion.

Louis Marshall, of New York, on behalf of Frank, contended that the trial court lost jurisdiction over the prisoner because of mob violence during the trial and because of Frank's absence through "coercion" by the trial judge. Notwithstanding this basis of argument, Marshall argued the truth of the allegations, until at last, Chief Justice White suggested to the solicitor that he was wasting his time.

Attorney General Grice, for the state, urged that Frank's petition showed that the question of mob violence had been passed upon by the trial court and by the Georgia Supreme court and that both found there had been no such disorder as would interfere with Frank's rights.

DR. JENKINS TO SPEAK AT Y. M. C. A. MEETING

Attractive Musical Program Also Arranged for Men's Meeting Tomorrow.

Dr. Millard A. Jenkins, formerly pastor of the First Baptist church of Athens, Ga., will speak to men tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Y. M. C. A. The subject of his sermon will be, "The Present War and Its Lessons."

The speaker has appeared in various southern cities before the Young Men's Christian Associations. Those present at this meeting are assured of hearing a talk that will hold their interest from beginning to end. An invitation is extended to all the men of the city to be present at the meeting.

A splendid musical program has been arranged for the meeting and the following men, who compose the association quartet, will sing: Almond Jones, S. P. Burton, R. W. Hamerslooth and Alva McIntire. E. B. Stinson will be the accompanist.

THE ALLIES ARE IN ACCORD ON QUESTION OF REPRISAL

London, Feb. 27.—France, Russia, England, Serbia and Belgium are said by English officials to be in absolute accord as to reprisals to be made on Germany, Austria and Turkey in retaliation for the German submarine campaign. England was in conference with her allies concerning reprisals before the receipt of the last American note making informal representations looking to the discontinuance of submarine activities and to the admission of food to Germany for her civil population.

While it can be authoritatively stated that the nature of the reprisals has not been agreed upon absolutely as yet, England and her allies have decided upon the main points which probably will be announced Monday by Premier Asquith in a statement for the press.

CONDITION CRITICAL

Raleigh, Feb. 27.—The condition of Emmet R. Wooten, speaker of the house of representatives of the North Carolina general assembly, who was injured in an automobile accident a few days ago, at noon today was said to be critical. The physicians attending Mr. Wooten stated that his condition is very serious. He was weak after a bad night but his fever had gone down somewhat.

CARTER INQUIRY TO BEGIN JOON

Seven Representatives Named as Commission to Investigate Charges Against Asheville Judge.

JUDGE'S DEMANDS LEFT NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE

Abernethy of Course Included in Probe—Senate Fails to Reach Vote on the Anti-Jug Measure.

(By W. T. Bost.)

Raleigh, Feb. 27.—Without protest against the passage of the resolution of inquiry into the character of Judge Frank Carter and Solicitor Abernethy the house last night acted upon the favorable report of the judiciary committee No. 1 and will begin the official investigation soon.

The Clark resolution which precipitated the issue before the house provided for five men to sit as a commission. Last night seven were appointed. They are Doughton, chairman; Griener, Hutchinson, Alford, Dunning, Stacey and Vann. The committee was unable to announce when it begins work.

Judge Manning and Col. P. M. Pearsall, representing Judge Carter, declared that their candidate demanded immediate and complete investigation. This demand before the committee yesterday afternoon left it without choice as to whether it would proceed. Abernethy was represented by Rouse and Land, J. D. Langston, Pace and Boushall, T. C. Wooten and Davis and T. H. Neither party to the controversy was present.

The hearing before the committee was entirely private and only attorneys representing the two contentions were admitted. The session was a long one. What took place, of course, is not obtainable in detail, but the purport of the action yesterday is to put the Carter-Abernethy probe into action, the report of the committee being made upon the showing of those who would inquire officially into the acts of these gentlemen.

While the investigation calls for the dual investigation, of course the entire interest is in the Carter side of it. Solicitor Abernethy asked for investigation of himself when he made his complaint to the legislature, but the hint of scandal followed by outright declarations against Judge Carter drew all the attention to the Asheville judge.

Solicitor Abernethy came up from Greene county court last night and conferred with his attorneys. He did not know when he came here that the committee had set another day for the hearing and he thought action had been taken when he came to Raleigh. His brothers, Dr. C. O. Abernethy, of Raleigh, and Dr. Eric A. Abernethy, of Chapel Hill are here with him.

The senate argument on the anti-jug bill of the State Anti-Saloon league, that has passed the house, continued last night until nearly midnight, without reaching a vote.

W. H. BUSH WINS CASE AGAINST P. H. THRASH

Ownership of Cash Register Was Involved in Case—Thrash Appeals.

An interesting case was heard in the court of Magistrate T. E. Hunter yesterday afternoon over the ownership of a cash register, valued at \$60. It was brought out in the evidence that W. H. Bush, Pat Thrash and several others formed a company several years ago called the O. K. Drug company, incorporated, doing business near the depot. The firm was in need of a cash register and Bush, who at that time conducted a cafe down town, offered the company the use of one that belonged to him and which he did not then have use for, it was testified. The company finally dissolved and the effects were sold at auction and were bought up by Thrash. Bush asked for the cash register and was told by the buyer of the stock to come and get it. Bush delayed his claim of the register for over a year and when he finally came to claim it, the holder refused to give it up, it was stated. Bush secured claim and delivery papers for the article and the case was heard before Magistrate Hunter yesterday. The justice awarded the cash register to the plaintiff and the defendant took an appeal from the decision.

NOW HINGES ON BRITISH COURSE

SENATE INCREASES MONEY FOR NAVY

Adds \$8,000,000 to Appropriation Bill as Passed by the House—Working Fast.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Congress worked steadily yesterday and last night on its task of cleaning up supply bills which must be out of the way before adjournment on March 4. The senate passed the naval bill, \$152,000,000, while the house spent the day debating the general deficiency measure with interruptions now and then to dispose of conference reports.

The senate added \$8,000,000 to the naval bill as it passed the house, providing in the two battleship construction program for five sea-going submarines instead of one, for sixteen instead of eleven coast defense submarines, for a gunboat and a hospital ship, and adding \$1,000,000 for an armor plant and \$500,000 for a projectile factory.

Senator Smoot vainly sought to have authorized the construction of fifty sea-going and twenty-five coast defense submarines, declaring that "no man can tell when the European disturbance will involve this country in difficulties." This precipitated a general discussion of the war.

The fortifications bill was passed without amendment, so it now goes to the president for his signature. Some \$250,000 was added to the diplomatic bill and a paragraph calling on the president to collect from Cuba \$6,500,000, the expense of the American army of pacification, was stricken out on a point of order.

The house refused to accept several of the senate amendments to the army bill, including one eliminating the prohibition against stop watches and "speeding up" methods in army shops. All except one of the senate amendments to the executive, legislative and judicial bill were disagreed to.

Democratic and republican leaders of both houses held informal conferences on the legislative situation. There is some hope that the Philippine bill and the general dam bill may be considered, but Senator Simmons said that if it was found that they could not be passed without prolonged debate, both would have to be dropped.

BOARD ELECTS J. FRAZIER GLENN AS PROSECUTOR

Succeeds S. G. Bernard as Prosecutor for Police Court—Other Matters.

The board of aldermen last night elected J. Frazier Glenn as city prosecutor to represent the city at the sessions of Police court. Mr. Glenn will take the place made vacant by the resignation of S. G. Bernard, which was handed to the board last week. The name of J. Scoop Styles was also presented to the board at the meeting last night, as an applicant for the position of prosecutor. The board voted that the prosecutor should follow his cases to Superior court, and if need be, to the Supreme court at Raleigh.

Following the recommendation of the police committee the board ordered that 50 demerits be charged against the record of Policeman C. J. Ingle. It was also recommended that the officer be retained on the force.

Several matters of a minor nature were brought before the board and many of these were passed upon, along with the usual routine matters that are brought to the attention of the board.

The board issued the following building permits:
Wilburn G. Baird, three-room residence on South Grove street; \$400.
L. Young, storeroom for business purposes, 267 Patton avenue; \$500.
J. H. Boase, five-room residence on Pine Grove avenue; \$700.
C. P. Lingerfelt, five-room residence on Pine Grove avenue; \$1,200.
H. B. Hughes, six-room residence on Rankin avenue; \$1,600.
Lottie Patterson, sleeping porch on College Park place; \$150.

SERVICES OVER DR. R. W. COOPER HELD TODAY

The funeral services over the body of Dr. R. W. Cooper, aged 81 years, who died at his home at Fairview on an early hour yesterday morning, were held at 11 o'clock this morning at the Sharon church. Interment took place at the church cemetery. The services were attended by a host of friends whom the deceased had made in his long residence in the vicinity.

Germany's Formal Acquiescence to Latest American Proposal Expected in a Day or Two.

ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM ENGLAND ALSO

Sentiment There Said to Be Divided on Acceptance of Proposal—Some Suggestions Are Known.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Encouraging reports from both Ambassador Gerard at Berlin have been received concerning the attitude of Great Britain and Germany toward the latest American proposals for the safeguarding of neutral commerce and the unrestricted shipment of foodstuffs to the civilian population of belligerent countries. The United States does not expect complete replies for several days.

Germany's willingness to make concessions and negotiate for an understanding on the submarine, food and mine questions already has been made known informally and the United States expects a formal acquiescence in a day or two. All eyes now are now turned on London, where opinion is understood to be divided on the merits of the suggestions. Some leading British cabinet members are said to be impressed by the military value of further restricting supplies to Germany.

The exact nature of the American proposals is still unknown because of the rigid reticence of officials here and abroad, but each day adds information on the subject. Briefly, this much of the contents of the American suggestions now has been confirmed:

The United States asked that the previous rules of international law with respect to shipment by neutrals of conditional contraband destined to the civilian population and not the belligerent forces of an enemy, remain unaltered.

A system is suggested whereby proof can be furnished that the supplies will be used by the civilian population.

The removal of all floating mines by Germany and Great Britain, is proposed, except mines used for protection of coast defenses and harbors, pilots to be furnished to guide neutral ships through fields that remain.

Attention is called to Germany's promise that if foodstuffs are not detained when destined to her civilian population the submarine warfare on merchant ships will be abandoned.

The American proposals do not dwell on German submarine attacks on enemy merchant ships, as the position of the United States, it is understood, would not permit interference in this mode of warfare, except where the lives of neutrals are endangered. Officials, however, assume that the promises made by Germany of an intention to abandon such warfare on merchant vessels and confine operations to those enemy vessels carrying troops and munitions of war, would be fulfilled, if foodstuffs were to be given unrestricted passage to Germany.

The destruction of the American steamers Carib and Evelyn continued to be talked about in official quarters. The hope of the American government is that dangers from mines will be eliminated by an acceptance of some, at least of the American proposals.

SHIPPING MEASURE REPORT FAVORS PERMANENT BOARD

Washington, Feb. 27.—Despairing of amending the government ship purchase bill to meet objections of insistent democratic senators, conferees on the measure last night agreed to a report which would make permanent the proposed government shipping board and ship corporation, subject to the will of the president and congress.

Senator Fletcher, in charge of the bill, said later there was nothing to encourage the view that the report would overcome opposition of senate republicans.

The report will be submitted first to the house. It cannot reach the senate before Tuesday or Wednesday. The conferees made no change in the section stipulating that ships should not be purchased in any way to disturb the neutrality of the United States.

SEAMAN'S BILL

Washington, Feb. 27.—The senate today accepted the conference report on the Seaman's bill, already adopted by the house, thus ending a two years fight in congress. The measure now goes to President Wilson.