

# The Asheville Gazette News.

WEATHER FORECAST: RAIN.

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## U. S. IS GETTING PROTEST READY

Preparation Begun of Protest Against British Embargo on Commerce Between Germany and Neutrals.

GERMANY BELIEVES U. S. PLAN SOLUTION Basis for Settling Neutral Commerce Difficulties in the American Proposal—Text of German Reply.

Washington, March 5.—Preparation of a protest against Great Britain's embargo on commerce between Germany and neutrals, has begun, but publication of the official text of the German reply to the American proposals for a cessation of submarine warfare and for free shipment of foodstuffs to civilian populations of belligerents was the only step taken by the United States government in connection with the maritime situation as it affects neutrals.

The state department declined to give out the text of the American proposals because they still are under consideration by Great Britain and her allies. Until some reply is received from the allies it is unlikely that any further move will be made by the United States.

Reports from London that Great Britain was solicited about American opinion on her declaration of a commercial embargo were read with much interest. Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, called on Secretary Garrison during the day and it was reported he had sought unofficially to learn Mr. Garrison's views. The secretary of war would not discuss his conference with the British ambassador beyond saying it was unofficial.

With the adjournment of congress it generally is believed President Wilson and the cabinet will give almost exclusive attention to the foreign situation.

Replies to various diplomatic notes from the belligerents are expected to be taken up within a few days. It has not been decided whether all unanswered communications shall be treated in one formal comprehensive note or whether the separate character of the different steps will be preserved. The United States has pending five separate negotiations all related to the subject of maritime warfare and the rights of neutrals.

The official text of Germany's reply to the American note suggesting that Germany and Great Britain agree on a plan to lessen danger to neutral shipping in the war zone, as made public by the state department, follows:

Official Text. "The imperial government have taken note with great interest of the suggestion of the American government that certain principles for the conduct of maritime war on the part of Germany and England be agreed upon for the protection of neutral shipping. They see therein new evidence of the friendly feelings of the American government towards the German government which are fully reciprocated by Germany.

of the submarines in accordance with international. "Fourth, the regulation of legitimate importations of food into Germany suggested by the American government appears to be in general acceptable. Such regulation would, of course, be confined to importations by sea, but that would, on the other hand, include indirect importations by way of neutral ports.

"The German government would, therefore, be willing to make the declarations of the nature provided in the American note so that the use of the imported food and foodstuffs solely by the non-combatant population would be guaranteed. The imperial government must, however, in addition, emphasize having the importation of other raw material used by the economic system of non-combatants including forage, permitted. To that end the enemy governments would have to permit the free entry into Germany of the raw material mentioned in the free list of the declaration of London and to treat materials included in the list of conditional contraband according to the same principles as food and foodstuffs.

"The German government ventures to hope that the agreement for which the American government has paved the way may be reached after due consideration of the remarks made above, and that in this way peaceable neutral shipping and trade will not have to suffer any more than is absolutely necessary from the unavoidable effects of maritime war. These effects could be still further reduced if as was pointed out in the German note of the sixteenth instant, some way could be found to exclude the shipping of munitions of war from neutral countries to belligerents on ships of any national flag.

"The German government must, of course, reserve a definite statement of their position until such time as ton from the American government enabling them to see what obligations the British government are on their part willing to assume."

## W. O. W. BIENNIAL MEET AT DU HAM NEXT WEEK

Many Delegates From Asheville and W. N. C. Will Attend Meeting.

A large number of delegates from Asheville and western North Carolina will attend the biennial session of the Woodmen of the World, of North Carolina, which meets at Durham next Tuesday and Wednesday.

It is expected that at least 250 delegates from various sections of the state will be in attendance at the meetings and with the large number of visiting woodmen, who are not delegates, but who usually attend the biennial sessions it is believed that at least 500 Woodmen will be in Durham next week.

## GEORGE WHITTED SIGNS WITH PHILADELPHIA

Special to The Gazette-News. Durham, March 5.—George Whitted, utility man of the Boston Braves, and scorer of the first run in the past world's series with the Athletics, announced here today that he has signed a contract with the Philadelphia Nationals. Whitted was traded with Duguey, utility infielder, to the Phillies for Sherwood Magee. The trade was announced some time ago but Whitted didn't take any too kindly to changing his swatting proclivities from a world's championship team to what was last year a second division team. The salary paid to the ex-Brave was announced to be \$5,000. Whitted leaves tomorrow for the Phillies' training camp at St. Petersburg, Fla.

## PEOPLE SUFFER IN MEXICAN CAPITAL

Feeling Effects of Famine and Lack of Communication With Outside World.

Washington, March 5.—Official reports to the United States government describe intolerable conditions in Mexico City, where the populace is suffering the effects of famine and lack of communication with the outside world.

One report charges that General Obregon is inciting the people to take the law into their own hands to obtain food in order to force a large part of the male population into the Carranza army. This view of the situation is credited by some of the officials here because of Obregon's efforts to block the relief of an international committee.

## TWO MORE FIRE ALARMS TURNED IN LAST NIGHT

A Chimney Burning Out and a False Alarm Brought Out Laddies Last Night.

While the number of fires that occurred here yesterday morning in less than two hours, the total being five, broke all records, save one, at the local fire department for the number of fires in one day, the records were still further smashed before the night was over. At 8 o'clock last night the firemen responded to a call at the Creamsman stable on Biltmore avenue, where it was found that a chimney was burning out and no damage was done. At 9:50 o'clock a false alarm was turned in from the corner of Pine and Mountain streets.

This made a total of seven alarms in about 12 hours, which is a record for the local fire department. It is considered the best of luck that none of the fires yesterday and last night had gained much headway before the arrival of the laddies, as the high wind would have made it harder to fight a stubborn fire. The quick response of the firemen to the numerous fires during the day and night yesterday and the good work done in quickly extinguishing the blazes, caused much favorable comment to be made by a large number of citizens last night.

## DR. WALLER'S FATHER IS SERIOUSLY ILL IN TENN.

The evidence in the case of the Citizens Lumber company against O. C. Mills and Annie Mosseller, which Referee Vorno Gudgey has been hearing for several days, has been finished and the arguments in the case have been set for next Monday at 10 o'clock. Following the arguments Mr. Gudgey will make his report to Superior court. The plaintiffs are asking judgment for about \$1,500, claiming that lumber and material had been furnished the plaintiffs to build houses on Pine Grove avenue, which had never been paid for.

## REV. J. B. SCROGGS ILL AT HIS HOME IN SHELBY

Special to The Gazette-News. Shelby, March 5.—Rev. Dr. J. B. Scroggs, presiding elder of the Shelby district Western North Carolina conference and secretary of the bishop's cabinet, is quite ill. He has been sick for some time, but his condition has grown from bad to worse and his daughter, Mrs. Fortune, of Asheville, and son, Clarence Scroggs, of Winston-Salem, have been called to his bedside.

## PRIMARY BILL BEFORE HOUSE

Straight Measure Covering All Offices to Be Considered—Local Issues Are Disposed of.

CALENDAR CROWDED WORSE THAN USUAL

House "Concurs in Senate's Treatment of Seawell Insurance Bill, Which Is Well Nigh Slain.

Raleigh, March 5.—The house yesterday sent the primary bill which it means to debate during the remainder of the session to the printer to allow members a copy for information when the measure is taken up today. The special order for yesterday evening at 8 o'clock was continued until today when the consideration of a straight measure that covers all offices will be introduced. The house put as many local issues behind it last night and yesterday as possible. It intimated the necessity for morning, afternoon and night sessions in order to relieve the calendar which is worse crowded now than it generally is at this stage of the session.

With the primary bill debate will follow a resolution to limit the speeches to five minutes on public matters and to one minute on local questions. To many this will come as a more grievous affliction than the search and seizure act or the Grier anti-jug act. Abbreviated oratory has not been resorted to yet and it is the cruelest of expedients.

The house humor cannot be guessed. One is locked uncertain whether the committee on the regulation of the liquor traffic would give a favorable report to the Grier act or not and then it turned and voted almost solidly in both committee and on rollcall for that act. And senators are telling it that members who voted for the act as it came from the house committee went over to the senate and lobbied against its passage as the house had done the job. The senate trimmed the primary as artistically as that body did the Grier act. It remains for the house to do a similar job to it.

The house concurred in the senate's operation upon the Seawell insurance bill. The senate well nigh slew it. Its action was entirely agreeable to the insurance companies, some of whom had declared their intention to leave the state if the measure championed so heartily by Henry Page, were enacted as they came from him.

Yesterday it became the painful duty of Mr. Page to move concurrence in the senate's act. He never cast a vote that pleased him less, not even those ballots that advanced the majorities of Judge Walter Clark and William Jennings Bryan. He moved regretfully for that concurrence. He still saw a virtue or two in the proposal which nullified acts and he spared them. It was understood three days ago that Mr. Seawell would move to table.

Constitutional Amendments. The house made a start toward land segregation and without prejudice reported the bill for voluntary segregation, returning another on the same subject unfavorably. This report was based upon an effort at segregation of lands between the white and colored races without a constitutional amendment.

This is one of the several amendments to the constitution, the four others being a condensation of the ten submitted at the last election. Of that number the one most virtuous as a law at this time, the members authority for the statement, is the Gilliam act restricting local legislation and providing emergency judges. The Thomas act, giving uniform magisterial jurisdiction to \$200, is the third.

These amendments, if it is universally conceded, stand a much better chance to get through at the next election than their fellows did last year. There were too many than.

## ANOTHER STANDARD OIL CO. STEAMER HAS BEEN SEIZED

London, March 5.—The Standard Oil company's steamer Platania bound for Malmo, Sweden, has been detained at Kirkwall, Scotland, pending investigation.

## QUART OF LIQUOR EVERY TWO WEEKS

Committees Considering Anti-Jug Bill Agree on the Above Provision.

Raleigh, March 5.—Agreeing upon a quart of liquor twice a month and five gallons of malt products, better known as beer, the conference committees of the house and senate or the Grier anti-jug act were together last night and ready for the pressing of the new bill.

It was an overwhelmingly carried compromise in the committee. Only Representative Whitford, of Craven, stood against it, while his five house associates and the three senate conferees were squarely in favor of this enactment at this session. The bill was immediately drawn.

The committees believe that both bodies will speedily enact it into law. The refusal of the house to adopt the senate amendment that referred the issue to the people had much to do with the upper house's agreement to come to better terms. The overwhelming vote of the house had shown the sentiment back of the Grier bill as it was offered.

The prohibitionists appear to be pleased. The new act merely allows a half gallon of whiskey to any individual, firm or corporation not embracing in the section that covers laboratories, hospitals, drug stores and medical depositories. It is aimed solely at whiskey sold for beverage purposes.

In some respects its supporters see an improvement over the Grier bill. While it does not prevent the receipt and delivery of one quart every two weeks, it does interfere with the delivery by hand. The gentleman who goes to New York or Washington with his grip and brings back booze to his friend is a law-breaker. Under the original Grier act he was not and the amendment of Mr. Doughton, changing the saving word in the phrase "for hire or otherwise," that word being "otherwise," gave the right which the new act denies.

## REGISTRATION BOOKS CLOSE SATURDAY NIGHT

Tomorrow is the last day of registration for the city election, March 15, on the question of commission government for Asheville. The registrars can be found tomorrow from 9 in the morning until 9 o'clock at night at the official polling places in each precinct. The location of these voting places follow: No. 4, Court house; No. 2, Langren hotel; No. 3, McGulr's herb store; No. 4, Webb and Britt's stable; No. 5, Wyatt's store, Roberts street; No. 6, old Slagle house.

## RESCUE WORK IN WEST VIRGINIA MINE IS SLOW

Hinton, W. Va., March 5.—Half a hundred miners and mining experts today worked with renewed efforts to clear away the debris in the Layland mine, where an explosion occurred which imprisoned over 100 men. Forty-eight hours after the fatal accident only 14 bodies had been brought to the surface. The slow progress made in reaching the entombed men was owing to the great amount of wreckage and the fire damp, but rescuers believe that the main entrance will be cleared of gas soon and that the progress of the rescue work will thereafter be rapid.

Rescue parties made rapid progress during the morning. At noon 35 bodies had been recovered. A strong force of deputy sheriffs kept the crowd out of the way.

## GERMAN BANK IN PITTSBURG FAILED TO OPEN DOORS TODAY

Pittsburgh, March 4.—The German National bank of Pittsburgh did not open its doors today at 9 o'clock. A notice was posted on the door that the bank had been closed by the order of the comptroller of currency. The German National bank was capitalized at \$500,000, and had deposits of over \$5,000,000.

## NEUTONS LOSE IN TWO AREAS

PRESIDENT GIVEN ADDITIONAL POWER To Withhold Clearance Papers of Ships With Supplies for Belligerent Vessels.

Washington, March 5.—Congress has passed a joint resolution giving President Wilson power to instruct the customs officials to withhold clearance from vessels which are believed to be about to carry supplies to the vessels of belligerents. If such vessels sail or attempt to sail without clearance papers they will be liable to fine of \$2,000 to \$10,000, imprisonment or both and forfeiture of the vessel.

The president was empowered to use the military or naval forces to enforce the law, which is to be effective during the war.

## E. B. ALSOP BEGINS AN ACTION FOR DIVORCE

Romance Started at Lake Toxaway Eight Years Ago Ends in Court.

Pittsburgh, March 5.—Filing the three generation barrier unsurmountable, Edward B. Alsop, 80 years old, a wealthy resident of this city, who also maintains a home in Washington, D. C., today began divorce proceedings against his beautiful young wife, Effie Pope Alsop. The suit asking for the annulment of the ties which bind him to his wife, who is 23 years old, was filed before Judge Brown, in Common Pleas court. He charges his wife with desertion.

When seen after the action was filed Mr. Alsop refused to make any comments concerning his shattered romance. He had no complaints to make regarding the treatment he received from his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Alsop separated over a year ago, the wife suddenly leaving Mr. Alsop's home in Washington. The filing of the divorce action is the culmination of a romance which had its inception eight years ago at Lake Toxaway, North Carolina, when they were stopping at the quiet resort. Effie Pope Hill, then but 14 years old, was romping about the lawn of the hotel with a sunbonnet and in calico garb. Mr. Alsop soon became attracted by the girl's unusual charm and beauty, and began paying her attention. His faithful devotion to the pretty girl earned him the sobriquet of "Effie's Big Newfoundland Dog." He began paying playful compliments and showering presents upon the girl, and five years later the friends of Mr. Alsop were shocked when his wedding to the young woman, then but 19 years old, was announced.

His young wife has declared that she had been brought up to believe there was golden truth in the maxim, "It is better to be an old man's darling than a young man's slave," but that there soon was an awakening.

Mr. Alsop alleges that he did everything to make his young wife happy, but in vain—she found herself fretting and discontented in the atmosphere of the early forties. She asserted that Mr. Alsop was parsimonious with her after their marriage and that she found her existence fettered because she could not mingle with folks many years older than her, as were the friends of her husband.

## STATE OF SIEGE EXISTS IN DISTRICT OF TRIPOLI

Rome, March 5.—A state of siege has been proclaimed in the greater portion of Cyrenaica, in an effort to put down a rebellion.

Cyrenaica is one of the independent administrative military districts in Tripoli which is now under Italian control. A Rome dispatch of February 19 contained information from Tripoli that reinforcements had been received by Captain Volino, whose native troops had almost entirely defeated as the result of a rebellion in Libya.

The Nelson Chesman company, newspaper rate book publishers, has asked the board of trade for data in regard to Asheville's location, topography, manufacturing industries, tourist and agricultural activities, to be used in their rate book to be issued soon. This information is being compiled by the local secretary today.

Russians Continue to Advance in North Poland and Galicia But Still Encounter Opposition.

VERY LITTLE CHANGE AT THE DARDANELLES Allied Fleet Still Has Larger Part of Task Before It—Bombardment Is Almost Continuous.

London, March 5.—While the forces of Teutonic allies in North Poland and Galicia are far from being broken it appears from Russian official reports that the Russians are continuing to make advances against them both in North Poland and Galicia. In the latter country, the Austrians are reported to be in retreat and are said to have lost many prisoners to the pursuing Russians.

The Russians are trying to drive the Germans back further to the north in the districts west of Kovno and Grodno and in front of Lomza, presumably so that the Germans may be diverted from Ossowitz, which they have been bombarding for some time with very heavy guns. The Germans have already been forced in the direction of Malwa from Pralazsynas.

In the Carpathians the Austrians are hammering at the Russian entrenchments, but are hampered in their efforts by the cold and bad weather conditions.

The Argonne and the Champagne districts in the west are still the principal areas of activity in the west, with the Germans claiming a slight success north of Arras.

There is little change in the situation in the Dardanelles. The warships of the allies have proceeded to the point they now occupy with comparative little trouble, but they still have the most formidable task facing them before they will be able to penetrate the strait—that of reducing the inner forts. The Turks declare that these defenses are impregnable, without taking into consideration the land defenses.

The bombardment against the Dardanelles forts is almost continuous. There are so many vessels engaged that all do not take part in the bombardment at the same time, so that the forts are given no respite. One of the forts which guarded a Turkish mine depot has been reduced.

The French vessels for the most part are working from the Gulf of Saros. Their guns command the Gallipoli peninsula and threaten communication between Constantinople and the forts on the European side.

## ASHEVILLE HIGH TEAM PLAYS BELMONT TODAY

Local Players Left Here This Morning to Participate in Elimination Game.

The Asheville High school basketball team left here this morning for Belmont where tonight the team will play in the second of the eliminator contests for the right to participate in the state high school championship games to be staged at Chapel Hill soon, under the auspices of the University of North Carolina.

The teams in western North Carolina have all been eliminated from the contest with the exception of Asheville, Belmont and Winston and Winston in the final game before the state games at Chapel Hill.

Ward received here from Belmont is to the effect that the boys composing the team have all been receiving some very hard practice during the past few weeks and will be in the best of condition for the game with Asheville. The Belmont High school team has defeated Belmont Abbey college team three times; Linwood college twice; Charlotte Juniors, Y. M. C. A. once; King's Mountain once; Lowell twice and last Saturday defeated Mathews in a well played and exciting game.