

BATTLES START EAST AND WEST

Operations Around Przasnysz and La Bassee Expected to Develop Into Important Engagements.

GERMANS ATTEMPTING TO REGAIN POSITIONS

Considerable Speculation as to What Has Happened to the Serbian Army—Dis-ease in Serbia.

London, March 13.—In the east the battle of Przasnysz, now in its opening stage, and in the west the operations around La Bassee, where the Germans have been massing men in an endeavor to regain the ground recently lost by them are expected to develop into events of much importance during the coming week.

The allied fleet in the meanwhile continues its efforts to force the Dardanelles. The allies, however, do not claim that any more important forts have been reduced. The bombardment has been hampered by the unfavorable weather. Plans for extensive land operations around the Dardanelles are being made by France, which country is concentrating forces in North Africa for that purpose.

Belated dispatches from Constantinople declare that the allied fleet up to last Sunday had not done a great deal of damage to the most important defenses. The fire from the ships is described as scattered and ineffective.

British military fraters agree that the recent fighting around La Bassee was the most important in which British forces have been engaged since the battle of Ypres.

There is considerable speculation in England as to what has happened to the Serbian army, of which nothing has been heard for a week. The official announcements from Nish ceased some time ago. Disease is rampant throughout Serbia, according to news dispatches, one of which describes the disease attack as far worse than the first Austrian invasion.

Nish, the present capital of Serbia, is said to be overcrowded with sick and dying.

MOTORCYCLISTS WILL GO TO MOUNT PISGAH

The members of the local branch of the American Federation of Motorcyclists will take the proposed run to the summit of Mt. Pisgah tomorrow morning, starting from the club rooms on Patton avenue at 10 o'clock. The members had originally planned to take the trip last Sunday but the bad condition of the roads, due to the severe rains of the week previous, caused them to postpone the trip until tomorrow. The members of the club, accompanied by their wives and friends will take well-filled lunch baskets and spend the day on the mountain height, starting the return trip at 5 o'clock in the evening. About 20 members have already expressed their intention of taking part in this final run and it is thought that a few more will be with them when it starts tomorrow morning.

Washington, March 13.—Col. W. H. Crook, disbursing officer at the White House, who was President Lincoln's body-guard and who was intimately acquainted with every president since Lincoln, died today at his home here. He had been suffering with pneumonia for over a week.

AMERICANS NOT YET SAFE IN MEXICO

Some Officials Believe All Foreigners Are in Danger—Administration Hopeful.

Washington, March 13.—There is continued anxiety here over the safety of Americans in Mexico City, although administration officials expressed the hope that the Zapata forces who now occupy the capital will maintain order. Repeated evacuations and occupations of the capital have brought chaotic conditions and some officials and diplomats believe that no foreigners' lives are safe in Mexico City. The killing of John B. McManus, the American dairy owner in Mexico City, for which Zapata men are held responsible, has not tended to increase confidence. It is expected that General Salazar, the post commander, will promptly carry out his announced intention to punish the murderers and make reparation to the family of the victim, in response to demands of the American government.

ITALY PREPARED FOR ANY EVENT

Silence in Regard to Reported Negotiations With Austria About Territory.

Rome, March 13.—The Italian government continues to maintain silence regarding negotiations reported to be under way with Austria concerning territorial concessions. Nothing has been added to the semi-official statement that Italy has instituted no negotiations but has simply received proposals from the German ambassador. There are persistent reports that Austria has absolutely refused to discuss the possible cession of Trieste, and will consent to concede only a small part of the province of Trente. It is asserted in military circles that Italy is prepared for any eventuality.

MURPHY NOW HAS A BOARD OF TRADE CLUB

Officers Elected and Organization Perfected at Recent Meeting of Citizens.

Special to The Gazette-News. Murphy, March 13.—An enthusiastic meeting of the business men of Murphy was held in the court house recently for the purpose of re-organizing the board of trade. About 35 representative citizens were present and the motion to re-organize and elect new officers was received with enthusiasm.

Officers were elected by acclamation as follows: President, Dr. H. N. Wells. First Vice President, A. A. Fain. Second Vice President, J. M. Vaughn. Secretary, W. Mercer Fain. Treasurer, P. C. Hyatt. Committees were appointed as follows: Industrial—C. E. Wood, J. E. Fain, C. M. Wofford. Entertainment—J. W. Davidson, E. J. Darnell, R. S. Parker. Membership—J. M. Vaughn, J. M. Barnett, A. L. Martin. Freight rates—W. M. Fain, P. C. Hyatt, J. H. Harwood. Publicity—G. W. Kirkpatrick, C. A. Brown, Tate Powell. The meeting was called to order by J. M. Vaughn, and A. A. Fain was chosen chairman and J. H. Harwood secretary. Splendid and timely talks were made by A. A. Fain, Dr. H. N. Wells, J. E. Fain and others.

Japanese Squadron Sails for China

Pekin, March 13.—The Chinese government has official information to the effect that the second Japanese squadron with two divisions of soldiers consisting of about 10,000 men, has sailed for China.

SCHOOL FUNDS APPORTIONED

State Board of Education Distributes \$409,630 to Bring All School Terms to Average of 100.2 Days.

COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE WILL RECEIVE \$9060.55

Durham, Forsyth, Halifax, Haywood and New Hanover Counties Do Not Need Aid of the State.

(By W. T. Bost.) Raleigh, March 13.—The state board of education apportioning the school equalizing fund for the state has distributed \$409,630.45 with which to project the term to an average of 100.2 days.

The money allotted the several counties in the state comes from what is known as the State Equalizing fund. It was provided for by the 1913 general assembly and raised by a 5-cent levy on each \$100 valuation and set aside from the state tax levy. The meeting was held in Governor Craig's office.

The term of 100.2 days lacks three and one-tenths days of equaling the term of last year which was 103.2 days. On its face that would carry disappointment, but two contributing causes make it a source of strength. The salaries of the teachers have been raised and the compulsory school law has placed so many additional children in the schools that a larger number of teachers had to be employed. And while the term has been shortened by a half week, the number of children put in the schools runs into many thousands.

The number of counties that receive nothing from this fund is strikingly small by comparison with the whole commonwealth divisions, but in the light of the modern disposition to get everything coming in a county's direction, it is large. Five counties do not find it necessary to call upon the state at all and already have more than the allotted term.

The following is the list of counties and their apportionment: Alamance, \$4,432.35; Alexander, \$5,154; Alleghany, \$3,698.70; Anson, \$3,992.87; Ashe, \$5,325.45; Avery, \$2,530.15; Buncombe, \$9,060.55; Burke, \$3,589.09; Cabarrus, \$4,826.49; Caldwell, \$4,277.89; Catawba, \$6,134.37; Cherokee, \$3,099.22; Clay, \$627.25; Cleveland, \$6,832.70; Columbus, \$7,000.35; Davidson, \$6,951.45; Davie, \$2,627.05; Forsyth, none; Graham, \$918.75; Guilford, \$11,683.07; Haywood, none; Henderson, \$3,278.50; Hoke, \$1,935.70; Iredell, \$7,592.21; Jackson, \$6,146.15; Lenoir, \$2,141.77; Lincoln, \$3,626.55; Macon, \$2,977.55; Madison, \$3,541.19; McDowell, \$2,355.10; Mecklenburg, \$9,176.15; Mitchell, \$3,754.15; Orange, \$8,605.75; Polk, \$1,644.32; Randolph, \$5,562.62; Rowan, \$6,097.79; Rutherford, \$5,558.04; Stokes, \$4,308.80; Surry, \$6,179.12; Swain, \$2,541.20; Transylvania, \$2,096; Vance, \$2,957.30; Wake, \$10,137.21; Watauga, \$2,490.20; Wayne, \$4,848.05; Yadkin, \$2,902.27; Yancey, \$3,874.20; total, \$409,630.45.

The Langel Hotel company of Black Mountain was chartered today by the secretary of state, the authorized capital being \$25,000 and paid \$10,000. The incorporators are Joseph Kinsey, Black Mountain; O. R. D. Poole, Black Mountain, and Harry T. Langel, Asheville.

SWAIN COUNTY WILL ISSUE \$100,000 BONDS

Recent Meeting of Highway Commission Held When Decision Was Made.

CHEROKEE COUNTY MAN KILLED; PARTY UNKNOWN

Special to The Gazette-News. Murphy, March 13.—Dock Allen was shot Tuesday night near his home at Violet and died Wednesday night. Mr. Allen with his son and Bud Hipp, discovered a fire in the Hatmaker house near the Allen home, in the first part of the night, and went there to distinguish the fire. As they were leaving some one was seen near them and Mr. Allen called to him to stop; the party answered by shooting Mr. Allen and firing several shots at others who ran. The bullet struck Mr. Allen in the abdomen, the ball penetrating the liver. Dr. Patton, of Murphy, was called to see the wounded man and did everything possible for his restoration, but Mr. Allen died Wednesday night about 9 o'clock.

NO VERDICT YET IN THAW CASE

Jury Spent Night Deliberating and Indications Are That It Is Still Far From Agreement.

COUNSEL FOR THAW WELCOME MIS-TRIAL

Would Consider Jury Disagreement in Thaw's Favor and Seek to Get Him Back Into New Hampshire.

New York, March 13.—Harry K. Thaw was acquitted today on the charge of criminal conspiracy growing out of his escape from the Matteawan asylum in 1913. The jury also acquitted for co-defendants who were jointly indicted an dtried with him.

New York, March 13.—The jury in the trial of Harry K. Thaw and four others charged with conspiracy to effect Thaw's escape from the Matteawan hospital in August, 1913, spent the entire night in deliberating and this morning indications were that it was still far from a verdict. Heavy-eyed from lack of sleep the jurors were escorted at 7 a.m. to a hotel nearby for breakfast. The effect of the night's deliberation was visible in their faces, and if a verdict has been reached they gave no sign of it.

The jury retired at 5:30 yesterday afternoon. Thaw's counsel expect a disagreement. Once during the night the jury returned to the court room to ask for a re-reading of the charge of Justice Page concerning whether Thaw was under honest misconception as to his rights when he fled from Matteawan. One member of Thaw's counsel said that they would regard a disagreement as in "one favor. Our first step, should the jury disagree, would be to ask for Thaw's return to the jurisdiction of New Hampshire on the ground that he was extradited on an order of the United States Supreme court and that there was no conspiracy to warrant extradition."

In case Thaw is acquitted his counsel are prepared to make the same request. The jurors, it was apparent from questions asked when the foreman came in for instructions, seemed to be divided on the question as to what Thaw's legal status was at the time of his escape and what part his belief that he had a right to flee should play in the determination of a verdict.

In his charge to the jury, the presiding justice said that the question of Thaw's sanity should enter into the case only in so far as he might be shown to have a mental capacity to enter into a criminal act and intended to do so.

Thaw was brought to the courtroom and a few newspapermen were admitted. Upon the request of Deputy Attorney General Cook, Justice Page then modified slightly a charge he had made during the afternoon instructing the jury to acquit Thaw if they found that he had an honest misconception of his right at the time of his escape. This charge was so modified as to read that the jury was to take such a misconception, if it existed, into consideration as bearing on the question of intent.

The Yerkes Chemical company, a wholesale grocery business, of Winston-Salem, is chartered with \$4,500 of its \$50,000 capital stock paid in. The incorporators are J. H. McClelland, Mooreville; O. W. Boyne, Winston-Salem, and N. W. Shore, Winston-Salem.

ALFRED SWINEHART OF PITTSBURG IS DEAD

Recent Meeting of Highway Commission Held When Decision Was Made.

CHEROKEE COUNTY MAN KILLED; PARTY UNKNOWN

Special to The Gazette-News. Bryson City, March 13.—The Swain County Highway commissioners met recently and decided to issue at once \$100,000 five per cent 30-year bonds. On account of the European war and the uncertainty of the future money market, the trustees thought it best to dispose of a big block of bonds while the opportunity was good. A large portion of this money will be placed on time deposit in the banks and will draw four per cent interest, so the district will be but little loser by the transaction. Next regular meeting of the trustees will be held April 5, at which time an engineer to have general supervision of the road building will be employed. Mrs. J. E. Woodard, widow of John E. Woodard, who was shot and killed last summer by Grover Ward at Almond, has filed suit in Superior court asking for \$25,000 damages.

RUSSIA'S COUNT WITTE IS DEAD

Count Witte Was Russia's First Prime Minister, Retiring From That Position in 1906.

THE GREAT STATESMAN HAD BEEN ILL FOR WEEK

He Was Delegate to the Portsmouth Peace Conference in 1905, Which Ended the Russo-Japanese War.

London, March 13.—Count Sergius Julovitch Witte, Russia's first prime minister, is dead, according to a Telegram dispatch to Reuters' company. He became ill last week.

Count Witte, who was born June 19, 1849 in Tiflis, was one of the Russian delegates to the Portsmouth, N. H., conference in 1905 which ended the Russo-Japanese war. Afterward Count Witte was appointed president of the new Russian ministry but he retired in 1906 and has held no important post since then.

Although Count Witte has held no important office in the Russian government for several years, it is said that he was able to exert considerable indirect influence in regard to certain policies.

Recently he has been leading a peace movement in Russia which was said to have been supported by many prominent Russians, especially women.

JUDGE CARTER'S COUNSEL INFORMED OF EVIDENCE

Evidence Thus Far Submitted Not Very Serious According to Rumors.

Raleigh, March 13.—Judge J. S. Manning, chief counsel for Judge Frank Carter, in the Carter-Abernathy affair, said yesterday afternoon that they received from the legislative investigating committee a statement of evidence as to Judge Carter that the committee has gotten from the accusers of the Asheville jurist at this stage of the proceedings. He would not go into details except to say that the evidence is no more specific than that published in the midst of the legislative proceedings, except that the names of the women in the case are given, and that there are some court cases, mentioned as indicating an "unjudicial" emperment.

Judge Manning would not detail any of the features of the evidence received from the legislative committee. From another source there were assertions based on asserted knowledge of the evidence submitted, that in the case there is nothing given more incriminating than the women and Judge Carter having been seen together in public, out for walks and the like. The committee is under obligation to supply counsel for Judge Carter with any additional accusations and evidence that the prosecution may submit between now and the hearing which opens here March 22.

INFANT OF MR. AND MRS. W. B. VALENTINE IS DEAD

The infant of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Valentine died this morning at their home, No. 149 Montford avenue. The funeral services will be held tomorrow from the residence and interment

W. B. VALENTINE IS DEAD

The infant of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Valentine died this morning at their home, No. 149 Montford avenue. The funeral services will be held tomorrow from the residence and interment

CRUISER EITEL IN SHIP YARD

MRS. ROCKEFELLER DIED EARLY TODAY

Had Been Ill for Many Months—Husband and Son in Florida.

Tarrytown, N. Y., March 13.—Plans for the funeral of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, who died yesterday, were held abeyance to await the arrival of Mr. Rockefeller and his son speeding from Ormond, Fla. They were to reach Pocantico Hills late this afternoon. It is regarded as probable that the funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon and that the interment will be at Cleveland, O.

New York, March 13.—Mrs. John D. Rockefeller died yesterday at 10:29 o'clock at the Rockefeller country home at Pocantico Hills, outside of Tarrytown. She had been ill for many months but her death was not expected. Her husband and son were at Ormond, Fla.

They were advised early in the day of Mrs. Rockefeller's condition, that she had taken a critical turn for the worse. Mr. Rockefeller and his son immediately engaged a special train and left Jacksonville, due to reach New York sometime today.

Mrs. E. Parmalee Prentice, Mrs. Rockefeller's daughter, was the only member of the immediate family present, when her mother died.

JUDGE CARTER'S COUNSEL INFORMED OF EVIDENCE

Evidence Thus Far Submitted Not Very Serious According to Rumors.

Raleigh, March 13.—Judge J. S. Manning, chief counsel for Judge Frank Carter, in the Carter-Abernathy affair, said yesterday afternoon that they received from the legislative investigating committee a statement of evidence as to Judge Carter that the committee has gotten from the accusers of the Asheville jurist at this stage of the proceedings. He would not go into details except to say that the evidence is no more specific than that published in the midst of the legislative proceedings, except that the names of the women in the case are given, and that there are some court cases, mentioned as indicating an "unjudicial" emperment.

Judge Manning would not detail any of the features of the evidence received from the legislative committee. From another source there were assertions based on asserted knowledge of the evidence submitted, that in the case there is nothing given more incriminating than the women and Judge Carter having been seen together in public, out for walks and the like. The committee is under obligation to supply counsel for Judge Carter with any additional accusations and evidence that the prosecution may submit between now and the hearing which opens here March 22.

CRUISER BROOKLYN ADDED TO PATROL FOLLOWING RUMORS OF ALLEGED GERMAN PLOT

Washington, March 13.—Secretary Daniels has announced that the armored cruiser Brooklyn, receiving ship at the Boston navy yard, had been ordered to patrol the harbor there to guard against neutrality violations.

Although officials here continue to deny that an evidence had been discovered to bear out stories of a plot to turn German steamers laid up at American ports into warships and rush them to sea, developments of the past three days have demonstrated the government's precautions against any neutrality violation. Four warships and a coast guard cutter now have been detailed for patrol duty in Boston and New York harbors.

Assistant Secretary Peters of the treasury was an early white house caller and had a long talk with President Wilson. He is in direct charge of customs matters, and the preservation of neutrality by foreign ships in American ports is under his charge. A few hours later he left for New York.

Mr. Peters said his trip had nothing to do with neutrality, but it became known last night that he was expected to confer in New York with officials of both the New York and Boston customs houses. In the harbor of these two cities are some of the finest of the merchant fleets that kept the German flag glowing in the North Atlantic lanes before the war.

German Warship Leaves Dry Dock and Awaits Decision of U. S. on Request for Repairs.

REPORT OF EXPERTS ON WAY TO WASHINGTON

Statements Conflicting as to Whether Prinz Eitel Friedrich Will Intern Until End of War.

Newport News, Va., March 13.—Spick and span after having been touched up by painters the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich today moved from dry dock to the ship yard in preparation for repairs, to await decision by the United States government on the request of the commander of the vessel that he be given time to repair his ship.

The Washington authorities will base their decision on the reports of the board of naval constructors which made a survey of the cruiser. The report was on the way to Washington today.

The question as to whether the warship will intern or not is still an absorbing topic. Although Commander Thierichens of the cruiser declares that he will renew his cruising, Captain Kiehne of the American sailing ship William P. Frye, sunk by the cruiser, after bidding the German commander goodbye made the positive statement that the cruiser would intern, he refused, however, to give his reasons for such an assertion.

Officials at Washington have been asked by the government authorities here concerning the cases of two members of the crew of the American ship Frye who remained on the cruiser awaiting repairs. It developed that those two members of the Frye's crew who were at first reported to have enlisted in the German navy were really detained on the order of Commander Thierichens on the ground that they were German citizens and still subject to service under German arms.

Collector of Customs Hamilton, when asked if representations had been made to Washington concerning these men said that the matter had been reported and that he was awaiting instructions regarding them. The men detained are Charles Frank and Robert Rogge.

Captain H. Lehne, the master of the William P. Frye, it is learned, has stated to government officials here that he did not believe the members of the crew were naturalized American citizens and that they had not entered protests when detained by the German officer. Notwithstanding the circulation of these reports representations have been made in behalf of Frank and Rogge as American citizens.

Captain Kiehne also threw additional light on the coming of the Eitel Friedrich to this American port and insisted that the German commander did not choose Newport News hazy as a port of safety.

"After February 20," said the captain, "the Germans entirely changed their tactics. Up to that time, whenever a smoke smudge was sighted there was a cry of 'alarm, alarm,' every man was ordered to the guns and the ship sailed straight for the smoke. After the sinking of the Wilberly, there was a change.

"From then on the Friedrich ran from everything. On the last three nights I knew that the officers were getting the wireless from British cruisers. On the last two nights before passing into the Virginia capes, the order to the crew was 'everybody to the guns; nobody to sleep.' On the last night two of the British cruisers were within ten miles of us."

Captain Kiehne said that several of the German officers asked him ten or twelve days ago if he knew where they were going to land.

"I told them I knew they were going to Newport News where they could find a good shipyard," said Kiehne.

"Then they asked me what I considered the best course to follow to hang to the longitude right up and then to strike due westerly into the coast. That is exactly what they did."

BREAD RIOTS IN SPAIN

Madrid, March 13.—Serious bread riots have occurred at Jendón. Mobs of women and children donned attacked the bakeries. The police were obliged to charge several times before order was restored.