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WARSHIPS SUNK BY TORPEDOES?

Turkish Statement Says Two British Vessels and One French Ship in Dardanelles Torpedoed.

ALLIES CONTENT THEY WERE SUNK BY MINES

Turkish Report Declares Hard Seven Hours Fight Ended Successfully for Turks—Little Damage.

Constantinople, March 20.—An official statement issued by the Turkish army headquarters says that the sinking of British and French warships in the Dardanelles Thursday was due to torpedoes and adds that seven hours of hard fighting ended in success for the Turkish forts; and that beyond slight damage to the earthworks there was no damage to the fortifications.

The British and French admiralities announced that the British battleships, Irresistible and Ocean and the French battleship Bouvet had been sunk in the Dardanelles by mine.

Admiralty Statement.

London, March 20.—The admiralty last night gave out the following statement regarding operations at the Dardanelles:

"An account of the operations at the Dardanelles on the 18th of March: Nine sweeping have been in progress during the last ten days inside the straits, a general attack was delivered by the British and French fleets yesterday (Thursday) morning, upon the fortresses at the Narrows. At 10:45 a. m., the Queen Elizabeth, Infelixible, Agamemnon and Lord Nelson bombarded forts J., L., T., U. and V. while the Triumph and Prince George fired at batteries F., E. and H. A heavy fire was opened on the ships from howitzers and field guns.

"At 12:22 o'clock the French squadron, consisting of the Suffren, Gaulois, Charlemagne and Bouvet, advanced the forts at closer range. Forts J., U., F. and E. replied strongly. Their fire was silenced by the ten battleships inside the straits, all the ships being hit several times during this part of the action.

"By 1:25 p. m. all the forts had ceased firing, the Vengeance, Irresistible, Albion, Ocean, Swiftsure and Majestic then advanced to relieve the six old battleships inside the straits.

"As the French squadron, which had engaged the forts in a brilliant fashion, while passing out, the Bouvet was blown up by a drifting mine. She sank in several fathoms north of Erenkeui village in less than three minutes.

"At 2:36 p. m. the relief battleships renewed the attack on the forts, which again opened fire. The attack on the forts was maintained while the operations of the mine-sweepers continued.

"At 4:09 p. m. the Irresistible quit the line, listing heavily, and at 5:50 o'clock sank, probably having struck a drifting mine. At 5:05 o'clock the Ocean, also having struck a mine, sank. Both the vessels sank in deep water, virtually the whole of their crews having been removed safely under a hot fire.

"The Gaulois was damaged by gun fire. The Infelixible had forward control position hit by a heavy shell and requires repairs.

"The bombardment of the forts and the mine-sweeping operations terminated when darkness fell. The damage to the forts, effected by the prolonged direct fire of the powerful forces employed cannot be estimated, yet further report will follow. The losses of the ships were caused by mines drifting with the current, which were encountered in areas hitherto swept clear, and this danger will require special treatment.

"The British casualties were not heavy, considering the scale of the operations, but virtually the whole of the crew of the Bouvet were lost with the ship, an internal explosion apparently having supervened on the explosion of the mine.

"The Queen and Implacable, which have been despatched from England to replace the ship losses, will be accompanied by the naval and military forces available on the spot.

HOLLAND PROTESTS?

London, March 20.—The Netherlands, according to a Reuters dispatch from The Hague, has sent a protest against the blockade of Germany.

LARGEST COTTON CROP IN 1914

Figures Given Out Today Show That Last Year's Crop Was Greatest.

Washington, March 20.—The greatest cotton crop ever produced in the United States was raised in 1914. The census bureau's statistics issued today giving the final ginning figures officially placed the 1914 crop as the record with 16,102,143 bales of 500 pounds each. That is 409,442 equivalent 500 pound bales of 204,721,000 pounds more than was produced in the great crop of 1911. Running bales averaging 507.2 pounds, the total crop being 15,873,002. The statistics included 121,451 bales estimated to be turned out after the March canvass.

Round bales included 57,618 bales; sea island 81,598 bales. The gins operated were 24,322. The lint cotton not included totaled 772,270 running bales or 791,464 equivalent 500 pound bales.

The production by states follows: Alabama, 1,750,281; Arkansas, 1,015,674; Florida, 80,953; Georgia, 2,713,470; Louisiana, 447,861; Mississippi, 1,244,703; Missouri, 81,587; North Carolina, 925,233; Oklahoma, 1,261,350; South Carolina, 1,524,595; Tennessee, 382,431; Texas, 4,584,933; Virginia, 25,182.

All other states 63,880.

SUNDAY MARCH 28 WILL BE PROHIBITION DAY

Superintendent Davis in Letter to Ministers of State Asks for Prayers.

From the State Anti-Saloon League headquarters copies of the anti-liquor act passed by the last legislature are being sent out to preachers of the state. Accompanying each copy of the act is a letter from Superintendent R. H. Davis calling upon the various pastors to set aside Sunday, March 28, to give thanks for the victory. The letter is as follows:

"Dear Brother:—Although the general assembly did not grant the law to prohibit the delivery of liquor for beverage purposes, as asked for by the moral and church forces of the state, we were successful in getting through some very helpful and useful legislation. The battle was a warm one and a victorious one for the temperance forces. I believe all legislation would have been defeated by the senate but for the active and immediate support given us by the church and pastors throughout the state, for which I desire to thank you. When you read the enclosed laws I am sure you will agree with me that we have made a long stride forward.

"We have already served notice that this battle will continue until we have prohibited the receipt of liquor in this state, and the work will go on until the last blockade distillery is destroyed and national prohibition is enacted; and I ask your constant and continued support and the support of your church that the Anti-Saloon League may carry forward this desirable program.

"I feel that a day should be set apart to give thanks to God for the victory we have won, and after advising with our central committee, we ask that on Sunday, March 28, the last Sunday before the law becomes effective, you take a few minutes to tell your congregation something about these three laws, and then in prayer, give thanks to God for the victory.

"We also request that you give your people an opportunity of making a cash contribution to help wipe out our indebtedness of \$955,83. I am sure that there are some members in every congregation who would like to contribute 25 cents, 50 cents or \$1 for this purpose, and we want them to have the opportunity.

"Yours for extermination of the beverage liquor traffic."

CASKET COMPANY WILL OPEN AGAIN MONDAY

The National Casket company expects to resume operations Monday morning, the plant having suspended work about ten days ago. The mill here supplies partly finished material to the northern and eastern branches of the company; and the temporary closing down here was on account of a transfer of the factory and storage plant from Hoboken to a new location on Long Island. Officials of the concern here state that they have a large supply of orders that have accumulated during this delay, and it is probable that seven or eight carloads of material will be shipped from the plant here in the same train, at an early date.

TREASURER HAS BOOKS AUDITED

Expert Accountants Are Again Going Over Mr. Lacy's Accounts at Request of Treasurer Himself.

FINDING OF NEW YORK AUDIT CO. DISPUTED

Treasurer Denied Accounting of Company and Attacked Character of Some of Men Who Made It.

Raleigh, March 20.—In the state treasurer's office, expert accountants are again going over the books at the request of the treasurer to make additional examination of the original audit of experts who cannot account for the figures of the American Audit company of New York.

The audit of the New York company formed the basis of a report to Governor Craig and to the general assembly by the board of internal improvements which stirred Treasurer Lacy to a public statement before the finance committees of the general assembly. In that report he denied the accounting of the American Audit company and attacked the character of some of the men who made it. The American Audit company stood pat and reiterated its figures.

Near the close of the legislature Mr. Lacy made request of Governor Craig for a second accounting along with representatives of the New York company and declared to the governor that continued statements in the papers were doing him an injustice. The New York company has not sent its men here to date, but the treasurer is having his side of the controversy strengthened by additional work. The re-accounting has not reached the point of statement-making.

This controversy will doubtless figure in the next state campaign when Treasurer Lacy will have democratic opposition in the primary and republican opponents in the general election. These figures have been used by both political factions.

The treasurer received from the legislative committee strong indorsement as to efficiency in his office and no feature of the special committee's report was incorporated in the legislative recommendation except the interest bearing balances which both houses had passed before the report of the committee was received.

Governor Craig has offered a reward for Sam Hobson, wanted in the state for the murder of Jim Matthews. Hobson is understood to be in West Virginia.

The line-up for a city fight is complete now. W. A. Cooper having entered the race to oppose Mayor Johnson and George F. Syme arraying himself against R. B. Seawell.

It means that the majority fight will be between Mayor Johnson and Mr. Cooper, a member of the aldermanic board under Mayor Johnson in the older day. Mayor Johnson, the hardest of the Raleigh administration to dislodge, looked to have had a free field, but Cooper's fight will make the campaign warm.

The commissioner of public works, R. B. Seawell, has only one opponent to date. His position calls for engineering ability and it has been harder to find somebody to oppose him.

ANTI-LIQUOR SHIPPING LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Montgomery, Ala., March 20.—The Bonner anti-liquor-shipment law recently passed by the Alabama legislature has been declared unconstitutional by Judge Gaston Gunter in a decision rendered in the city court. The law provides that no person may receive more than one quart of whiskey during a month and that express companies cannot legally accept shipments of more than that amount for delivery. A test case was instituted by J. E. Whittle of Pensacola, Fla., who sought to have the Southern Express company accept a shipment of six quarts of whiskey consigned to Ramer, Ala. The law went into effect last month.

SHIP LANDED TODAY SAW BATTLE RECENTLY

New York, March 20.—Passengers aboard the British steamer Lapiand which reached New York from Liverpool today witnessed a battle in the Irish sea between a British torpedo boat which was escorting the Lapiand and a German submarine. The Lapiand crowding on all steam, fled in a zig-zag line from the combatants.

ELECTION OFFICERS ARE NAMED BY ALDERMEN

City School Accounts to Be Audited—Streets to Be Paved.

Matters pertaining to paving of several streets in the city; the election of judges and registrars for the primary and election soon to be held here and the order for the auditing of the city school accounts by the city clerk, occupied most of the time of the board of aldermen at the weekly session of the body, which was held last night.

Judge George A. Shuford appeared before the board and requested that the city school accounts be audited, explaining that this had not been done for about two years. Judge Shuford is a member of the city school board. The board ordered that City Clerk Frank Conder audit the accounts next week.

In the discussions as to the paving and repairing of several of the city streets, the board ordered that the paving of Philier street be held up, pending the securing of a right-of-way by the city. The street will be paved from French Broad avenue to Southside avenue. It was announced that the contract had been let for the paving of Valley street, from College to Biltmore avenue.

At the request of Marcus Erwin, who appeared in behalf of troop B, cavalry, the board ordered that the special license on carnivals be re-imposed. The troop will soon bring to this city a carnival for the benefit of the troop.

The following were appointed by the board as officers for the approaching primary and election:

- First precinct—Registrar, John W. Davis; Judges, W. M. McDowell and H. C. Clark.
- Second precinct—Registrar, George D. Kerr; Judges, W. W. West and A. A. Paul.
- Third precinct—Registrar, C. M. Williams; Judges, H. B. Carter and Sam Waldrop.
- Fourth precinct—Registrar, G. H. Grindstaff; Judges, J. B. Anderson and V. A. Guder.
- Fifth precinct—Registrar, George Pennell; Judges, O. O. Edwards and Norman Smith.
- Sixth precinct—Registrar, E. B. Powell; Judges, E. C. Chambers and Charles G. Lee.

The following building permits were granted:

- G. W. Lyles, six room residence on Max street, \$550.
- W. T. Davey, five room residence on Short Starnes and Cherry streets, \$2,500.
- Maude T. Bledsoe, seven room residence on Broadway; \$2,700.
- G. W. Robinson, six room residence on Hollywood street \$2,750.

DRUGS ARE ADVANCING OWING TO BLOCKADE

Carbolic Acid Is up From 12 Cents to \$1.50 a Pound.

The big drug houses are feeling the effect of the war in that the price of many imported articles are mounting to lofty heights. This is the case with carbolic acid the war began from 12 cents to \$1.50 a pound. Most of this advance has been recorded in the last few weeks, owing to the stringent embargo on exports from Germany which has developed into the present blockade by the Allies.

The advance in carbolic acid is only one example of the wide range of chemicals and chemical products affected by the cutting off of German exports. The whole world outside of Germany and Austria is turning to this market for supplies of coal tar products and potash derivatives usually furnished by Germany.

Benzol has advanced from 75 cents to \$4 a gallon. Salicylic acid has gone from 39 cents to \$1.40 a pound. Benzoate of soda has advanced from 35 cents to \$2.50 a pound. Phenacetin, one of the important coal tar derivatives has risen from \$2.75 to \$3 a pound.

The potash has also advanced to abnormal prices. Fernamanganate of potash, which is normally about 11 cents a pound, is now 35 cents. Practically no new supplies of muriate of potash have been received here since the latter part of January, when the German government suspended all shipments.

EXPRESS RATE CASES WILL BE RE-OPENED AT EARLY DATE

Washington, March 20.—The formal order re-opening the express rate cases requested in petitions filed a few days ago by four of the principal companies was issued today by the interstate commerce commission. The hearing will be held at a date to be designated later. Pending such hearing no changes in rates may be made.

ALLIES LACKING WAR MATERIAL

This With Germany's Reparation One of the Heaviest Handicaps Entente Powers Have.

ALLIES MAKING UP LEEWAY VERY FAST

Before Long Will Be Able to Bring Into Play Large Numerical Preponderance, Says Correspondent.

New York, March 20.—The Times military correspondent admits that England, France and Russia are still short of much necessary war material, and that Germany's preponderance in this respect has been one of the heaviest handicaps that the allies have had to contend with. "The result of this war depends more upon material than any other great conflict in history," adds the correspondent. "The entente powers were all short of material when the war began, but they are making up leeway very fast. Before long their equipment will be complete, and from that moment onward they will be in a position to bring into play their large numerical preponderance. "For only a short time more, they have to stand on the defensive, holding their armies on the defensive and shunning adventures for which this is not the moment. The hour for the offensive will come, but it has not come yet, and it is the greatest mistake in the world to display impatience and to expect to cut the fruits of victory before victory is ripe." "Wrote Letter to Self." On the charge of writing herself a letter from the front, by means of which she obtained nearly \$100 from a charity society, a sentence of six months was passed by a local police court on a woman, named Elizabeth Reader. The letter purported to come from the husband, but the envelope containing it was received by the husband safe in his own home from a friend in the ranks. By the slight change from Mr. to Mrs. the woman used the envelope to deceive the Soldiers' Families Relief association. The fabricated letter read: "Dear Liz: Just a few lines, hoping you are better, also the dear children. I am fairly well myself, only my hand is rather painful. "Don't worry yourself and make yourself ill, for we must pray to God for the best, for with His help I shall come home safe and well. I hope you will get your money safe. "Don't worry if you don't hear from me for a little while, as we are going up to the firing line this afternoon, so pray to God to keep me safe. If you don't hear from me soon, write to Major Walker, I will now close, as we are to get a pop at them, so take for a while—from your loving husband, W. R. Reader." "Lord Fisher Religious Too." Lord Curzon's statement in the house of lords that Lord Roberts had conducted family prayers for his household for over fifty years is supplemented by data collected by the Church Family Newspaper regarding Lord Fisher, first sea lord and Lord Kitchener. "We learn on unimpeachable authority," says the journal, "that Lord Fisher makes a habit of going to a certain church practically every day for prayer and meditation before commencing his responsible duties. We understand also that Lord Kitchener follows out a similar rule whenever he is in London."

MRS. HELEN M. ANGLE IS ACQUITTED BY JURY

Found Not Guilty of Causing Death of Aged Sutor, W. R. Ballow.

Bridgeport, Conn., March 20.—Mrs. Helen M. Angle was found not guilty of manslaughter by a jury in criminal court here late yesterday. She was accused of having caused the death of Waldo R. Ballow at Stamford on the night of June 23 last.

The announcement of the verdict was greeted with cheers. Mrs. Angle collapsed. When she had revived sufficiently she left for Stamford. The accusation on which Mrs. Angle was brought to trial was that of having caused her aged sutor, Waldo R. Ballow, to plunge down the stairs leading to her apartment in the Rip-powam building to his death. She was arrested shortly after Ballow had been found unconscious at the street entrance to the building.

SAYS GERMAN OFFICIAL WAS ARCH-CONSPIRATOR

Stegler's Attorney Accuses Man He Says Is Immune—Client's Sentence Light.

New York, March 20.—A representative of the German government in this country, "whome, on account of his position, is immune from arrest," was described in the Federal court here yesterday as the arch-conspirator in the plot to obtain a false American passport for Richard P. Stegler, a German naval reservist.

The accusation was made by Charles H. Griffiths, Stegler's counsel, in asking for a light sentence for his client, after he had pleaded guilty. Stegler received sixty days in jail. His two fellow conspirators—Richard Madden and Gustave Cook—who Thursday were convicted by a jury largely on Stegler's testimony, were sentenced to ten months each.

"Stegler is not the instigator of this conspiracy," Griffiths told the court. "He is not the arch-conspirator. Having lost his position in an exporting house, Stegler went to a representative of his government here to see if he could help him out. There a plan was suggested to him to get a passport to go to England as a spy. Money was given to him to get the passport, together with recommendations from firms in the United States to firms in England to carry out the scheme. There was where the money came from—\$200 in all—out of which he paid Madden and Cook." Stegler, the attorney continued, was ready to go, but wanted written assurances that in case he met death in England his wife would be provided for.

CARTER-ABERNATHY CASE STARTS MONDAY

Legislative Committee of Seven Will Begin Investigation of the Charges.

Raleigh, March 20.—Hearings on charges of immoral conduct against Judge Frank Carter will begin here Monday before the commission appointed by the last legislature, investigating throughout the differences between Judge Carter and Solicitor Abner Beaufort over the postponement of certain cases during a recent session of the Superior court at New Bern. The investigating commission is composed of Representatives R. A. Doughton, H. T. Grier, H. R. Dunning, J. M. C. Vann, W. P. Stacy, L. H. Allred, R. S. Hutchinson.

WEATHER MAN WILL NOT PERMIT BALL GAME

The scheduled baseball game between the teams of Asheville High school and Bingham Military school, which was to be played at Oates park this afternoon, was called off, owing to the weather conditions and will very likely be played Tuesday afternoon. The same teams are scheduled to play Monday afternoon at the league park and it is probable that this game will be "pulled off" if the weather is sufficiently promising at the time.

Weaver college and Mars Hill were also scheduled to play this afternoon at the Weaverville grounds and it is thought likely that these two teams would not play. It is understood that this contest would also take place on the coming Tuesday. Weaver and Mars Hill are scheduled at Mars Hill on Monday and the second contest on Tuesday will probably be switched to the Weaverville grounds.

COL. E. M. HOUSE HAS ARRIVED IN BERLIN

Berlin, March 20.—Col. E. M. House, President Wilson's personal friend reached Berlin from London today. He had a long conference with American Ambassador Gerard. He will be the ambassador's guest while in Berlin. It is generally believed that Col. House is working in the interests of peace.

BRITISH SHIPS TORPEDOED.

London, March 20.—The British steamship Bluejacket with wheat from Liverpool has been torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of the Azores. The crew of the steamer took to the boats. Although the vessel was badly damaged she remained afloat.

London, March 19.—The British steamship Hyndford was torpedoed by a German submarine today. It is reported that one member of the crew of the steamer was killed.

DECLARE U. S. WARNED JAPAN

Dispatches Taken as Exaggeration of Fact U. S. Inquired About Japan's Demands, However.

PREDICED JAPAN CAN SATISFY AMERICA

Agreement Between Two Countries by Which America Has Right to Inquire Into China's Affairs.

Tokio, March 20.—Press dispatches declare that the United States has warned Japan in connection with Japan's demands on China. These reports are taken as an exaggeration of the fact that the United States recently made inquiries concerning several points of the Japanese demands. While the foreign office declines to discuss the matter Japanese statesmen predict that their country's assurances will satisfy the United States. An agreement was reached between Baron Takahira, who is minister to the United States and Secretary of State Root giving the United States the right to consult Japan at any time concerning the status quo in the Pacific and concerning the independence of China. When Japan entered the war the United States amicably called the attention of Japan to the Takahira-Root agreement which provides for the maintenance of the independence and integrity of China and equality of commerce in that country.

INSPECTION OF LOCAL MILITIA IS FINISHED

All of Local Companies Made Excellent Showing and Officers Pleased.

Company F, First Regiment, N. C. N. G., was inspected last night by Captain Russell Langdon of the United States army and Colonel Thomas Stringfield of the state militia and was given an excellent rating by the inspecting officers. Over 50 men were in line last night, including the non-commissioned officers, and the entire company with the exception of Second Lieutenant Walter Watts took part in the inspection. The second officer was unable to be present because of illness.

All the property of company F has been arranged so that it can be easily assembled in case of emergency and the property and equipment showed great improvement over the last inspection. Captain Carl Felmet has recruited the company to its full strength and the members of the organization are taking an unusual interest in all the company doings.

The First Regiment Band was inspected yesterday morning and came through with flying colors as did company K on Thursday night. The showing of the three local branches of the state service is the best this year that has ever been and the members of the organizations can justly be proud of their splendid reports.

At the request of Captain Olive Snyder of Bingham school, Captain Langdon delivered a lecture to the students of the school this morning. The representative of the war department leaves here Monday to inspect the company at Waynesville.

BUSINESS MEN DISCUSS COMING CITY PRIMARIES

An informal gathering of 60 or more business men met last night at commission headquarters to hear suggestions in regard to the coming primary. The meeting, it is stated, was in no sense intended to formulate plans for anybody's candidacy; it was simply a meeting to hear the various business men of the city to say concerning the primary, a qualifications of men for the several offices under the new plan of municipal administration. Among the mentioned in connection with the offices were: S. Lipinsky, R. Johnston, J. K. Cowan, E. M. Dowell, George S. Powell, Fred Lindsey, Mayor J. E. Rankin, Jud Henry H. Stevens and others. It is understood that another meeting will be called in the near future. It was thought by those present that night that within the next week or ten days political developments will bring out more prominently the names of those who may be holding out to offer themselves for the various offices.