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WEATHER FORECAST: FAIR AND WARMER.

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MISSION IS IN GREAT DANGER

Situation in American Presbyterian Mission at Urumiah, Northwest Persia, Is Desperate.

KURDS MASSACREING ASSYRIAN CHRISTIANS

Seventeen Thousand in Grave Danger—Doctor Saves 3000 by Displaying the American Flag.

Tiflis, Russia, March 24, by way of Petrograd and London, March 25.—Telegrams and letters from Urumiah and northwestern Persia describe the situation in the American Presbyterian mission as desperate. Turkish regular troops and Kurds have persecuted and massacred Assyrian Christians.

Harry T. Hackard, a doctor on the Presbyterian mission staff, risked his life in a successful effort to prevent a frightful massacre at Doegliana, where 6,000 Assyrians made their last stand. They fought for three days until all their armaments had been dragged from the American flag, was unfurled among them by Dr. Hackard. This resulted in saving of all but 200 of the Assyrians who had been burned in a church.

Fifteen thousand Assyrian Christians have taken refuge in the American mission and 2,000 in the French mission.

Dispatches from Urumiah state that 50 Turkish regular troops entered one of the missions and hanged the orthodox Bishop Marelia and four orthodox clergymen. They beat and insulted a missionary named Allen. Shortly before 50 refugees had been dragged from the French mission and despite the fearful pleas of nuns were executed. At Gulphashan the Kurds were equally cruel. The last of a total of 103 villages was holding out a month ago.

The Kurds ordered all the Assyrian males into the street where they were grouped in fives and marched to the graveyard, and there they were killed to the last boy, girl babies and older women were then killed with great atrocity and the younger women were taken as slaves.

Twelve thousand Assyrians have taken refuge in the Caucasus. Seventeen thousand are declared to be in danger. In the Urumiah missions 20,000 are dead and much property was destroyed.

The Assyrians fought bravely and as long as their ammunition held out they were victorious. The missionaries are untiring in the efforts to save the people and relieve distress. They are spending money freely. At Urumiah they are dispensing the equivalent of \$400 daily. Disease is prevalent.

The situation at Urumiah has already been taken up by the United States with Turkey. The force at the Presbyterian mission normally numbered five clergymen and a physician with their wives and four single women. The American mission is supported by the board of foreign missions of the Presbyterian Church of America.

Berlin, March 25.—The following statement was issued today by the German army staff headquarters: "Except for unimportant engagements on the heights of the Meuse, southeast of Verdun and at Hartmann-Wesserkopf which still continue only as snail fights, the German army has taken place along the western front."

In the eastern arena the Russian attacks to the east and southeast of Astrakhan near Jednorozok and northeast of Przasnyss have been repulsed.

U. S. CONSUL AT MOSCOW SAYS NO DEMAND FOR COTTON

Washington, March 25.—Consul General Snodgrass at Moscow, Russia, has notified the commerce department that there is no immediate demand for American cotton there.

"Congestion at Archangel and on the Siberian line is paralyzing business," the consul general said, "while the government tax on one shipment removed by sledge from Archangel made returns unprofitable."

DR. K. LIEBKNECHT FORCED TO FIGHT

Socialist Member of Reichstag Mustered Into German Fighting Machine.

Berlin, March 25.—Dr. Karl Liebknecht, socialist member of the reichstag has been mustered into the army as a member of a landstrum regiment and assigned for service in Alsace.

The Copenhagen Politiken printed a story to the effect that Dr. Liebknecht had been ordered to place himself at the disposal of the German military authorities. This action, it is supposed was due to Liebknecht's action in the reichstag Saturday when he voted against the adoption of the budget.

Dr. Liebknecht was perhaps the most widely known of the German socialists. He frequently protested against waging war and in December was reported to be leading a German peace movement. Soon after the opening of hostilities he was reported to have been shot for refusing to do military service.

AMERICA HELPING TO FEED MAN IN TRENCHES

Increased Exports of Food May Account for Higher Prices in U. S.

Washington, March 25.—Breadstuffs worth \$357,931,823 were shipped abroad during the eight months ending February 28, compared with \$115,216,881 for the same period of the preceding year. The greatest increase was in wheat exports, which rose from \$67,654,508 a year ago to \$229,208,142. For last month alone the breadstuff export totaled \$62,375,959, compared with \$3,722,255 in February 1914, and the wheat export increased from \$3,893,895 to \$38,399,993.

These statistics, announced by the commerce department, do not show the destination of shipments, but it is known the great bulk went to feed the soldiers and civilian populations of the belligerent European countries. Exports of corn and oats also leaped upwards by millions of dollars last month and in February cotton shipments showed an increase of approximately \$20,000,000 over the same month a year ago. Total cotton exports for the eight month period, however, fell below the 1914 figures by more than \$200,000,000, the respective amounts being for 1914 \$498,910,358 for 1915, \$248,947,192.

Some idea of the part American beef is playing in feeding the men in the trenches may be gained from the fact that exports of fresh beef increased last month to \$17,813,161 from \$13,845 in February of the preceding year, while during the eight month period the total export was \$57,000,000 greater than in 1914. Canned beef valued at \$7,264,729 went abroad last month, as against \$242,766 a year ago.

WILL PROCEED AGAINST THE ODENWALD ITSELF

No Action Has Been Taken Against Captain for San Juan Incident.

Washington, March 25.—No criminal prosecution of the master of the German steamship Odenwald for alleged violation of the neutrality laws by attempting to slip to sea from San Juan, Porto Rico, without clearance papers, will be undertaken by the department of justice for the present. It is learned Attorney General Gregory plans to concentrate attention on proceedings against the Odenwald itself.

The prosecution will be begun in the United States District court for Porto Rico. The penalty in case of a conviction is confiscation of the ship.

It was made clear that there is a strong belief in official quarters the Odenwald contemplated carrying supplies to the German auxiliary cruisers Kron Prinz Wilhelm. It was said a large steamship of the general description of the Wilhelm was reported outside San Juan harbor only a few hours before the Odenwald attempted to escape.

JAMES WILCOX SEEKS PARDON

Has Already Served Twelve Years of Thirty-three-year Sentence for Murder of Nell Cropsey.

HAS TUBERCULOSIS AND SHORT TIME TO LIVE

Elizabeth City People Willing to See Him Free—Convicted by Circumstantial Evidence.

(By W. T. Bost.) Raleigh, March 25.—James Wilcox has presented his case through Elizabeth City advocates and Governor Craig now has the petition to pardon him from the thirty-year sentence for the murder of Nell Cropsey of Elizabeth City.

The ground upon which this mercy is sought is that Wilcox has served twelve years and has been sufficiently punished. The light that was expected in the guise of new evidence did not appear. There was no complaint that the jury found the wrong facts and reached the unrighteous verdict. Wilcox has tuberculosis and a very limited time to live, the people have been tempered and softened by time. Elizabeth City is willing that he die in freedom.

For many weeks this case has been before the people of Pasquotank and recently a history of the case from its beginning with Miss Cropsey's death in November 1901 to the present has been given. Circumstantial evidence manifestly strengthened by the clamor of the crowd wrought Wilcox's conviction, though Wilcox's call upon Miss Cropsey's cousin with "I want to see you a minute, Nell" is all that looked like guilt to the recent reviewer. The defendant made something of an effort at alibi. The Cropsey girl was never seen alive after the chat with Wilcox, to whom she had been engaged, but with whom she was then at "outs."

The first jury convicted of murder in the first degree, but the demonstration from without gave a new trial. A second jury tried him and found second degree murder. Wilcox then came to the penitentiary. Judge G. W. Ward prosecuted Wilcox and E. F. Aydtel defended him, each being leading counsel in his assignment. Wilcox in prison has made a good worker and a capable electrician. He can no longer perform those duties. The petitioners think he has served long enough. Governor Craig has not indicated what he thinks about it.

The funeral services over the remains of George W. Norwood, grant clerk in the office of Secretary Bryan Grimes, of the department of state, were held from his home on East Jones street yesterday afternoon and the burial took place seven miles in the country.

Mr. Norwood died Tuesday after an illness of only three days. He was a native of Wake, prominent in state and local politics, a big-hearted man of great physique and one of the most generally liked men in Raleigh. He was 51 years old and father of eight children. His oldest son died two years ago.

Under the recent act creating the position of legislative reference librarian, William S. Wilson, corporation clerk in the office of Secretary of State has been elected librarian by the committee named to do this work.

ELECTION DEFENDANTS MANUFACTURE EVIDENCE

Indianapolis, Ind., March 25.—Evidence has been manufactured for use by the defense in the Terre Haute election fraud trial here, according to the testimony of Edward Hotter, Terre Haute chief of police, one of those who pleaded guilty to the conspiracy indictment.

OFFICERS SEIZE GARLOAD BEER

Sheriff and Deputies Seized 120 Barrels Beer and Quantity of Liquors Last Night at Skyland.

GEO. CATHEY TOLD THE OFFICERS HE OWNED IT

Officers Traced Car from Asheville to Skyland—Liquors Found on Cathey's Premises.

Operating under a search and seizure warrant Sheriff E. M. Mitchell and Deputies J. B. Jordan, C. G. Lanning, Luther Revis and Special Deputy Fletcher Austin, about midnight last night seized a carload of beer, 120 barrels in all, 75 pints of rye whiskey, three gallons of corn liquor and 16 bottles of champagne, at the residence occupied by George Cathey near Skyland.

Part of the wet goods was found in a barn on the place and the remainder was in the house occupied by Mr. Cathey as a residence. After making sure that all the liquors on the place had been captured, the officers placed all of it under lock and key and returned to the city.

In a statement to Sheriff Mitchell, Mr. Cathey admitted that the beer and liquor belonged to him and stated that he purchased it in order to fortify himself against the new anti-jug law that goes into effect on April 1, under which a person can only buy one quart of liquor each two weeks and five gallons of beer each month. According to Sheriff Mitchell, he received word yesterday afternoon that a carload of beer had arrived on the Asheville yards, of the Southern Railway company, billed to George Cathey at Skyland. Investigating the case, the officer stated today that he found the car was taken to Skyland about 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Sheriff Mitchell and Deputy Lanning visited Skyland early in the evening and located the beer and laid the plans whereby the capture was to be made. Returning to Asheville Sheriff Mitchell organized his party, which not only included Deputies Lanning, Jordan, Revis, Austin, and Special Deputy Polk S. C. N. Lominae, Captain Fred Jones and Patrolman M. Y. Angel. When the party of officers had been organized and instructions had been issued by Sheriff Mitchell as to what was to be done by the men when they arrived at Skyland, two automobiles were sent and Sheriff Mitchell and Jim Sherman acted as chauffeurs for the officers and the party proceeded to Skyland and at once started to carry out the plans arranged for the seizure.

Before the officers had proceeded far they met five two-mule wagons, with two negroes in each wagon on the road, coming from the direction of the Cathey house, according to the officers.

Upon investigation, the wagons being searched by the officers, it was found that they contained no liquor and they were allowed to proceed on their way. The negroes stated, according to the officers that they were working for Homer Cathey and that Homer Cathey owned the teams and wagons. The negroes stated, the officers say, that they were returning to Asheville, although they denied that they had just hauled barrels of beer from the railroad station to the house occupied by George Cathey.

Arriving at the residence of Mr. Cathey, he met the officers and inquired their business. He was told by Sheriff Mitchell that the officer had a search and seizure warrant. According to the officers, Cathey invited the county officers into his house but refused to allow Chief Lominae, Captain Jones or Patrolman Angel on his premises and they waited for the county officers to finish the work of searching and seizing the wet goods.

DR. MILLINDER DEFENDS JUDGE

Asheville, Physician Is Judge Carter's Star Witness—He Thinks Jurist is Working Too Hard.

SEVERAL ATTORNEYS ENDORSE COURT WORK

Sampson County Man Testifies Jurist Destroyed Court Record—Clashed With Recorder Turner.

(By W. T. Bost.) Raleigh, March 25.—The commission investigating the Carter-Abernathy case closed its hearings for the present in Raleigh at 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon to go to Newbern today to take up the Abernathy phase of the case.

Raleigh, March 25.—Charges that Judge Frank Carter destroyed a court record in Sampson county, that he displayed high temper and caused a commotion among the convicts of Pasquotank county by privately examining them, every one else being excluded, were the principal matters brought out in the investigation of the Carter-Abernathy case at yesterday's session.

Clerk Sessions of Sampson county, examined by Judge Carter's counsel, said that Judge Carter had destroyed the affidavit of a young girl repudiating testimony which she had given in a case against a man and woman charged with immoral conduct. Judge Carter did not know the merits of the affidavit, the witness said in cross-examination, nor would he allow Magistrate Lee, who took the affidavit, to explain.

Dr. M. C. Millinder, of Asheville, testified as to the judge's characteristics. The jurist was apparently nervous prostration at the time of his appointment to the bench, but he had since improved, the physician said.

Roscoe W. Turner, former recorder of Pasquotank, told of Judge Carter's private examination of convicts. Judge Carter and the recorder clashed at every turn, the witness said.

Counsel for Judge Carter introduced lawyers to tell of how Judge Carter conducted courts in Chatham, Harnett and Alamance counties. They gave the judge high praise.

It was the intention of the commission, Chairman Daughton announced, to go to New Bern Thursday. Oral arguments by counsel will be permitted. It is not known here whether additional witnesses will be examined on the commission's return here. Afternoon and night sessions will probably be held to enable the witnesses subpoenaed to appear in the Raleigh.

RUSSIANS GAIN INCARPATHIANS

PROLIFIC WRITER OF SEA IS DEAD

Morgan Robertson Had Thrilling Career—Found Dead at Atlantic City.

New York, March 25.—Morgan Robertson aged 54, one of the most prolific writers of short stories America has produced was found dead in his room at a hotel in Atlantic City last night.

Mr. Robertson had a romantic career as a sailor, author, jeweler and inventor. He ran away from his home in Oswego when 16 years of age and shipped as a cabin boy. He made two trips around the world. Ten years later he made his home in New York and became a watchmaker and diamond merchant. Then he began to write sea stories. Although he wrote over 200 stories in 14 volumes it was recently asserted in an unsigned statement that the author was in straightened circumstances. Friends were attempting to assist him at the time of his death.

Mr. Robertson invented an improved periscope for submarines.

ASKS ANOTHER CHANCE FOR CHARLES BECKER

Counsel Asks Court to Reverse Judgment of Conviction in Second Trial.

Albany, March 25.—Another effort to have the life of Charles Becker, under sentence of death for instigating the murder of Herman Rosenthal, was made before the court of appeals today. Martin T. Manton, Becker's attorney, asked the court to reverse the judgment of conviction returned in the second trial, and to give Becker another chance to defend himself before a jury.

During a three hour argument, Mrs. Becker sat in the court room and took frequent notes. Mr. Manton will conclude his argument today, and Assistant District Attorney Robert C. Taylor, will argue against a new trial.

Manton attacked the testimony of James Marshall, a negro witness at the second trial who came into prominence recently through his conflicting affidavits concerning what he knew of the homicide.

"Marshall lied at the second trial," Manton said. "He testified that he saw Becker conferring with Rose, Schepps and Webber, accomplices, before the murder, but he was not produced at the first trial. A short time ago he gave an affidavit in Philadelphia that his testimony was false. He virtually substantiated the affidavit before me. It is still later he repudiated both of these affidavits. How can this court place credence in the story of such a witness?"

Charles B. Pitt, Jr., Becker's press agent, was characterized by Manton as "a lunatic and perjurer." Manton asked the court not to consider his testimony seriously. Pitt testified at the second trial that Becker had told him to be in the vicinity of Times square on the night of the murder as something might happen.

Petrograd Reports Large Captures of Austrians—Violence of Russian Attacks Increased.

GERMANS PUSHED BACK ALONG PILICA RIVER

Only Mine Sweepers Active in Dardanelles—Warships Are Expected to Attack Again Any Time.

London, March 25.—Mine sweepers alone represent the naval activity of the allies in the Dardanelles, but the equinoctial storms seldom last longer than a week and the resumption of the bombardment is expected to begin any time. It may take place today. It is just a week since the last bombardment.

Petrograd reports the first strategic fruits of the capture of the Galician fortress of Przemysl in the increased violence of the Russian attacks in the Carpathians where large captures of Austrians are claimed. The only other item of interest in the east is the Russian claim that they are pushing back the Germans on the Pilica river to a point from where Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is expected to make his next thrust toward Warsaw.

In the west the Germans are attacking in Arras and in Champagne, but, according to official French statements, without success. The Germans continue their aerial attacks on British ships, but apparently without the same measure of success that attended their submarine attacks on merchant vessels.

The diplomatic situation in the near east is still a subject of keen interest and the impression is growing that Bulgaria must take the first definite step before any of the other Balkan nations enter the war.

MIS RAE TANZER IS HELD FOR GRAND JURY

New York, March 25.—Miss Rae Tanzer, who filed a \$50,000 suit against James W. Osborne, former assistant district attorney of New York, for alleged breach of contract, was held today for action by the grand jury on the charge of using the mails to defraud.

FRENCH WOMAN SHOT AS SPY AT LUNEVILLE, FRANCE

Luneville, France, March 25.—Margaret Schmitt, a French woman, was shot yesterday after being sentenced to death by court martial as a spy. She admitted that she had accepted 200 francs from the Germans to furnish information about the French.

500 CHICAGOANS FAILED TO MAKE INCOME TAX RETURN

Chicago, March 25.—Five hundred Chicagoans with incomes ranging from \$60,000 to \$100,000 a year failed to make returns for the income tax according to a statement of Charles F. Cline, United States district attorney.