

The Asheville Gazette-News.

RUSSIAN SHIPS BOMBARD FORTS

fleet Is Again Knocking at Backdoor of Constantinople. Result of Attack Is Not Known.

GERMAN CRUISER MUST LEAVE SOON

Only Few Hours Remain for Raider to Hold Status at Newport News.

TURKISH AIRCRAFT OVER ALLIED FLEET, REPORT

Russian Fleet in Baltic Very Active, With Danger to the German Units, Says a Petrograd Report.

London, March 29.—Russia is again knocking at the backdoor of Constantinople by the bombardment of Turkish forts on the Bosphorus, but with what success is not known definitely. The only news of the fighting at the front door is a monotonous reiteration of the reports that the mine sweepers of the allies continue their work and that weather conditions have prevented a resumption of the bombardment. Constantinople, however, declines to accord to the weather the only excuse of the hull in the attack and claims that since March 18 the weather has been so good that Turkish aeroplanes have been flying over the warships of the allies in and about the Dardanelles.

Unofficial reports, nevertheless, from neutral sources in the vicinity indicate an early resumption of activities; and it is set forth that the long distance shelling will be immediately commenced by the allied ships.

Reviewing the Russian activity in the Baltic, Petrograd claims that the operations on this sea by Russian warships has resulted in danger to several units and that the Germans were compelled to materially restrict their movements.

As to German submarine activity off the English and Irish coasts the liner *Salba* is reported in distress in the Bristol Channel. The liner may be one of their victims.

In the diplomatic situation London observers speculate hopefully on the re-organization of the Balkan league, but nevertheless it is felt that the visit to Bulgaria of the German ambassador, Von Der Goltz, who was recently at Constantinople, may check the reconciliation of Bulgaria with her neighbors.

HOUSE ON FAGG STREET BURNED EARLY TODAY

The house occupied by James Buckner at No. 29 Fagg street and owned by Dr. J. E. Hawthorne was destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning. A call was turned in to the central fire station about 7 o'clock, but it was from the depot and when the ladders arrived there they were told the fire was on Fagg street. A run to Fagg street was then made, but the house, which was a small frame building, had already been consumed by the flames. The firemen were able, however, to extinguish a fire on the roof of the house next door to the burned building. This house was occupied by John Barnwell, colored.

WEST CHAPEL PUPILS WILL ENTERTAIN

The pupils of West Chapel school will give an entertainment on next Thursday and Friday nights, which promises to be the most enjoyable events that the pupils have participated in for some time. The arrangements include music by an orchestra of several pieces and the program is very interesting throughout.

TO CEDE TERRITORY?

Paris, March 29.—Austria has made a definite offer to cede to Italy a part of the province of Trent, at the close of the war, according to the Petit Parisien's Rome correspondent, who adds that Italy has deferred a reply.

DEFINITE ROAD POLICY FORMED

Commissioners Purpose Laying the Foundation Toward Giving People of All Sections Good Roads.

DOESN'T CONTEMPLATE EXTRA LARGE OUTLAY

Based on Use of the Present Available Resources, and Present Road System—The Details.

It is doubtful if there is anything in connection with public affairs which will afford the people more genuine satisfaction than the knowledge that the county commissioners have worked out a definite road policy for the county. It will be of scarcely less interest to the taxpayers to know that the policy does not contemplate any extraordinary expenditures, which progress generally makes necessary, but that it is based on the use of available resources—the regular revenue, convict labor, insofar as possible the material at hand and the use of the present improved roads. It also contemplates doing the greatest good to the greatest number. The county has never had any settled, scientific road policy, although for many years the various boards sought to give the county good roads. Several years ago it was discovered that a water-bound macadam road constructed of such stone as seemed available would not stand up, particularly since the automobile has developed. Yet the county went on building such roads, mainly perhaps, because there seemed nothing else to do which the county could do. In the meantime, a great deal was said about road maintenance, which was attempted; and then came the discovery that the maintenance of a macadam road was a puzzle. There seemed no way of replacing the dust particles which were blown away by the wind. In the meantime, too, came the experiment with sand-clay surfacing with the further discovery that the travel on most Buncombe roads was too heavy for it.

In working out the definite road policy *The Gazette-News* is informed that the commissioners started with this basic fact in mind: That the water bound macadam such as we can construct with our own material will not stand our travel. It was very simple deduction to conclude that if we used our own stone—and any other course seemed out of the question—we must put it down with some kind of a binder. The commissioners did not go at the problem blindly, but sought the aid of the federal government experts. It was decided to use a bituminous binder.

The ultimate aim of the commissioners, and it is a foregone conclusion that if they give the policy a good swift start it will be followed by other boards, is to build bituminous roads similar to the one that is to be built between Asheville and Weaverville, out in every direction from Asheville. Of course such roads can not be built to the boundaries of the county for several years. But after the Asheville-Weaverville road and the Woodley roads are paved the commissioners purpose, using the county labor, treating the other macadam roads with coal tar by the penetration method. It is likely this will first be done on the Fairview-Hickory Nut gap road, a highway both as to grade and construction which has been pronounced by experts to be one of the best macadam roads in the country. Then, though probably not in the order named, the Hendersonville, Hominy, Leicester, and Swannona roads will be treated likewise, repairs first being made where necessary, of course.

With the ultimate object of giving all sections paved bituminous roads, the commissioners propose, beginning at the city limits, to divide the county into concentric rings each one and a half miles across; then it is proposed to have an enabling law passed by which when the population in a given ring on a certain road numbers so many people, the commissioners automatically levy on the property owners for a certain percentage of the cost for constructing a bituminous road in that particular ring. It may be said here that the specifications for such a road will be a general thing call for five inches of bitumen and crushed stone laid on a foundation of rolled water bound macadam nine inches thick. There will be three feet of rolled water bound macadam on each side of those which in the rings outside of those which have the bituminous road it is proposed to have the law provide that the commissioners may tax the people for maintaining the roads—that is, the people on each road in a ring which has not reached a certain population will be charged with keeping up a mile and a half of road.

Road experts have pronounced this an excellent policy, it is believed it

(Continued on page 3)

EWART ATTACKS VILLA FIRST ATTEMPT

Men Attacking Matamoros Cut Down by Carranza's Machine Guns—Villa Awaits Artillery.

BROWNSVILLE ACROSS BORDER IS IN DANGER

Almost Certain Mexican Shells Will Fall in American Town—Details of the Fighting Given.

Washington, March 29.—War department officials feel that the American forces now at Brownsville are ample to protect the town during the fighting at Matamoros, just across the border from Brownsville. Major Blockson, the American commander, has two squadrons of cavalry, a machine gun platoon and a battery of field artillery. Near Brownsville are two squadrons of cavalry and additional troops could be sent from Fort Sam Houston at San Antonio and Fort Melosh at Laredo.

Brownsville, Texas, March 29.—Falling in their attempts Saturday and that night to dislodge the Carranza garrison by rifle and machine gun fire, Villa forces besieging Matamoros virtually ceased their attacks yesterday, awaiting, it was announced, the arrival of artillery. In the event of an artillery duel, Brownsville, directly across the Rio Grande from Matamoros, a costly failure of Villa forces, in which their losses were officially given as 100 killed and 400 wounded. This attack was a headstrong dash of 2,000 mounted riflemen.

The Carranza losses were ten killed and forty-five wounded. Two persons were struck by bullets in Brownsville. Matthews was seriously injured.

The coming Villa artillery must be powerful enough to cope with nine 3-inch field pieces of the defenders, none of which was fired Saturday. In addition the troops are said to have four 2½-inch guns. Concealed machine guns won several brilliant successes for the Carranza forces in the opening fight. A troop of 250 Villa cavalry, circling five miles south of Brownsville, approached unwittingly at a town named Rositas, machine guns in a trench hidden by brush. They were trotting past this trench when the machine guns opened fire. Nearly all of the entire Villa dead were said to have fallen at this point, while almost to a man, the others were wounded.

General Emelliano P. Nafarrete, commanding the Carranza garrison of 1,200 men in Matamoros, gave the Associated Press an account of the cavalry attack:

"There were three separate cavalry charges. In the first, led by General Jose E. Rodriguez, not more than 200 men participated. The second was made with about 600 men by Commander-in-Chief Cabral. The third assault comprised about 2,000 Villa troops. Like the other two it was beaten off. I was on the firing line, and during the third attack noticed a great number of Villa soldiers were demoralized. At first I thought they intended to fight on foot. Later I discovered they were falling off their horses, either killed or badly wounded. With the aid of machine guns, the few men I had were equal to the thousands of the enemy. The Villa troops came to within fifty paces of where we were entrenched. Then we would turn the machine guns loose and mow them down."

Nafarrete said he would defend the city to the limit. Four flags, captured, floated in front of his headquarters, the band played in the plaza and men and women of Matamoros celebrate, filling the streets with color.

General Prescilio Elizondo, of the Carranza garrison, was wounded seriously. It was said the bullet which hit him was fired by one of his own soldiers. General Nafarrete announced that of the ten Carranza dead, five were killed at 2 o'clock in the morning when an overenthusiastic lieutenant ordered his men to fire on a party of Villa soldiers rather than dead and wounded in front of the trenches. One Carranza soldier, caught looting a house during the night, was executed. Intoxicants are forbidden.

Reports of the Villa dead conflict. The American consul, Jess H. Johnson, had a report of 200 killed and 300 wounded. Many bodies lay in the sun yesterday in the open space before the Carranza trenches. Two hundred Villa wounded are housed in Brownsville, and this probably comprises the bulk of seriously wounded.

The Villa officers said they are not disheartened. It was said that General Jose Rodriguez, in supreme command of the attacking troops, had decided before they are charged again. The Villa lines lay near Las Ruas, four miles southwest of Matamoros. General Defensores Vasquez with a force of Carranza troops said to number 1,200, is known to be a few miles south of Matamoros.

Upon orders from Washington Capt. (Continued on page 3)

SENTENCES IMPOSED ON LAST DAY OF COURT

With the passing of sentences on several defendants who had been previously convicted the term of Superior court for the trial of criminal cases, which had been in session here for the past two weeks, adjourned Saturday afternoon about 5 o'clock.

The jury in the case of David Hughes, tried on charges of a disorderly nature, returned a verdict of not guilty.

Wille Johnson, colored, who shot and killed Hazel Campbell, colored, was given one year on the roads. Arthur Marindale drew a sentence of six months on charges of the larceny of an automobile belonging to J. G. Adams.

Sentences in the cases of other defendants follow: Roy Freeman colored, was given four months on charges of false pretense.

W. E. Steppe, retailing, one year on roads; Jerome King, colored, as usual, six months on roads; Clyde Bishop, forcible trespass, costs; Clarence Martin, embezzlement, costs; Hugh Hicks, false pretense, judgment suspended; George McDonald, retailing, costs; Mack Harris, vagrancy, costs; and Field Church, retailing, 200 and costs.

EWART ATTACKS JUDGE CARTER

Bitterness Engendered in the Fight Over Federal Judgeship When Boyd Was Successful Creeps up.

LETTER IS VICIOUS IN ITS DELIGHT OVER THE PLIGHT INTO WHICH JUDGE CARTER HAS GOTTEN.

Raleigh, March 29.—From western North Carolina yesterday a story came that Judge Hamilton Gustavus Ewart had written a letter that is smartly in circulation. The letter was a fierce attack on the judge.

But the letter was personal and written direct to Judge Carter. Further than admission that he has received and answered the letter Judge Carter deposed not his turned it over to his friends and has a copy of it here. He would not quote any passage of it.

But his friend who came to town yesterday did go far enough to say that Judge Ewart's letter was extremely vicious, that it gloated over Judge Carter's plight and wished him all sorts of the most exquisite torture possible in such an investigation. The westerner declared that "there is a reason" as McNinch used to write in the anti-Simmons campaign stuff, Judge Carter went personally to Washington where Judge Ewart wanted to be a federal judge, fought him in the house of his friends and beat him, Judge James E. Boyd now holds the commission sought by Judge Ewart.

Judge Carter had not discussed that side of it. He seems never to have mentioned the Ewart letter to anybody in Raleigh until he was asked about it, Judge Ewart has not offered his production to the papers.

But Judge Ewart's attack cannot be made a partisan one. The Republicans in all parts of the state who have been interviewed or examined by the special committee have been Judge Carter's friends. Two of the best witnesses that he had last week were republican officials. There seems to be no effort to capitalize the democracy's embarrassment.

And similarly, it bears no likeness to a factional fight, the old Simmons and Kitchin quarrel.

It is true that Senator A. D. Ward law partner of Senator Simmons, has been a most active man against Judge Carter, has lent his influence to the charges and given those to them. But nobody has identified the senator or any of his close friends with the charges. Chairman Warren, a good Simmons man, Col. P. M. Pearsall, a red hot one, and many western Simmons men have stood by Judge Carter, while John D. Bellamy, H. E. Norris and B. C. Beckwith, Kitchin leaders have smitten Carter high and thigh.

And Simmons men declare that the judge has done more to bring about things which the Simmons influence gave a start, moral betterment through overthrow of the liquor traffic. They are not getting anything on the Simmons people.

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HOPE OF SAVING CREW NOW GONE

Navy Department Abandons Hope of Trying to Rescue Men of Sunken Submarine F-4 Alive.

MAY TRY TO SALVAGE HULL; RECOVER BODIES

Dredger Works Several Hours Raising Load and Divers Find She Is Lifting an Old Anchor.

Washington, March 29.—The last remote hope that any of the submarine F-4's crew may be alive has been abandoned, by the navy department. Today Acting Secretary Blue ordered Rear Admiral Blue, commanding the Honolulu naval station to report on the exact location of the sunken craft so that the department could make estimates on salvaging the hull and the recovery of the bodies of the dead. No advices have been received by the department since Friday when it was reported that the submarine was lying in 50 fathoms of water.

Honolulu, March 29.—The submerged submarine F-4 has been located outside the harbor, it was announced last night.

Portions of the superstructure have been brought to the surface. The dredge California will shift moorings, tugs will cross-cross in all directions and an attempt will be made to lift the submarine.

Y. C. Parks, a civil engineer, has started construction of an immense diving bell, a 54-inch cast iron pipe seven feet in height, fitted with a plate glass port.

The diving bell is expected to be ready for use today.

Three days search for the sunken States submarine F-4 has resulted in unfilled hopes. Divers who went down the two cables, thought to have been attached to the submarine, found the heavy body of an old anchor, probably lost by the battleship Oregon. Operations to locate the missing craft will be recommenced.

Diver Agraz, who went down the cable attached to the anchor, wore only a helmet.

Diver Evans, who descended along the second cable, reported that he found nothing.

Agraz, whose descent to a depth of 215 feet, is said to be a world's record, spent twenty-two minutes on the downward journey, and nine and a half minutes in the ascent. The experience apparently caused him no distress.

Naval Constructor Julius A. Furer declared that the four submarines of the Hawaiian division were examined as to their stability only a month ago. He said that all were found in good condition.

The water is so deep at the point where the F-4 is said to have disappeared that navy officers asserted that without diving apparatus which would permit men to go down 300 feet, the task of locating the craft and lifting it, if it is found, will present great mechanical difficulties.

Solicitor Abernethy Repudiates Such Charges Against Judge Carter; Thus Strengthens Case.

Raleigh, March 29.—Sheriff Charles Reed of Pasquotank county was the first witness at the resumption of the hearings into the Carter-Abernethy legislative investigation.

Sheriff Reed told of the investigation of the Pasquotank chain-gang by Judge Carter and declared there had been trouble among the convicts of his county which would not have occurred if the shackles had not been ordered taken off the prisoners.

Judge Carter is ready to take the stand in his own behalf. It is hoped that the hearings may be finished before night.

Sheriff Reed admitted that the condition of the Pasquotank county convict camps was very bad. He said that the convict guards drank a great deal but that they had resigned after the investigation by Judge Carter. Sheriff Reed stated that Judge Carter had refused to allow Commissioner Scott who had been an officer of the county for many years, to speak to him and that the people felt that Judge Carter had dealt too harshly with the commissioner.

Superintendent Hinton of the Pasquotank schools testified that the investigation of the chain gang had been for the purpose of finding whether the chain gang was a fit place to sentence prisoners, and he declared that the inquiry had disclosed that it was not. He said that Judge Carter had found some running sores on some of the prisoners and some with iron bands around their necks. The most criticism that he had heard of Judge Carter, he said, was that he had not made his remarks in the court room instead of to the prisoners.

J. B. Lee, an Elizabeth City lawyer, said that Judge Carter had given the guards time to explain and he had given the convicts to understand that if there were any further cases of cruelty they could look to him. He said that his only complaint against Judge Carter was that he had not made his remarks in the court room.

Raleigh, March 29.—Lawyers and witnesses who will appear in the closing events of the Carter-Abernethy hearing came up yesterday from New Bern to be here today when it is understood Judge Carter takes the stand for himself.

Since Solicitor Abernethy has unfavourably recommended to his attorneys that they take notice of none of the immoral charges alleged against the judge and come of his feminine friends, it is taken that there will be no further testimony on this score. It is not believed even that attorneys who will cross-examine the judge will resurrect the charges which have been almost universally condemned.

The immoral charges are admittedly gone. Solicitor Abernethy has personally repudiated them and his attorneys would ask no question about them. He has strengthened himself in his case before the people. So has Judge Carter. Nobody who has heard the evidence believes from evidence offered that the judge has done anything wrong. His physician, Dr. M. C. Millender, of Asheville, who testified so splendidly for the judge Wednesday, said: "There are no skeletons in the judge's closet. The last thing that I would believe about him is a charge of immorality." The estate of the men who charged the judge thus at the expense of women, old and young, isn't one coveted by anybody.

But the people who have read and heard the evidence are less certain what the court of injury will have to say about judicial temperament and court conduct. There is little sentiment observable that would punish the judge with impeachment. Fearing the Morgan case in Goldsboro, in which the judge took a murder trial from the jury and ordered a verdict of not guilty, the prosecution has shown very little that looked like a judicial temperament that results in miscarriage of justice.

One of the finest things said for the judge thus far was by Collector Bailey, of Raleigh.

The collector took the Lyman Abbott view of Roosevelt, that although the colonel is impulsive and quick, he thinks as rapidly and comes to the right conclusion. Bailey thinks Carter is quick, but that he is accurate and gives the client a correct measure of justice. Bailey didn't say the other day that no lawyer has received hard treatment in a Wake case. That's just what he didn't say.

TO DROP CHARGE OF IMMORALITY?

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