

WAR ON DRINK MAIN PROBLEM

British Campaign Against Alcoholics Takes Precedence Over Happening on the Battlefields.

BECAUSE OF INFLUENCE ON MUNITIONS QUESTION

Austrians Strengthen Forces in Bukovina and Cross the Driesta River in Incursion of Russia.

London, Apr. 1.—The war on alcoholics as an outcome of the labor situation in Great Britain has definitely taken precedence over the much talked of Spring advance of the allies in the west.

The reason is probably that the question of munitions is more pressing than that of recruiting. Promises of cabinet leaders and the letter of King George on the question of temperance are intended to pave the way for sounding public sentiment in preparation either for shutting off absolutely the sale of alcoholic drinks except on physicians' prescriptions, or the adoption of some measure, which while not absolutely prohibitive, will have almost as drastic an effect. War Secretary Kitchener has announced that no alcoholic beverages will be served in his household during the remainder of the war.

The battle fronts in the east and west afford little war news today, and although the allies are reported to have resumed bombardment of the Dardanelles, nothing official in this connection is forthcoming.

Today is the centenary of the birth of Prince Bismark, and London papers are reviewing editorially the career of the German statesman which ended with his break with the present emperor and speculating on what would be the outcome of the war were Bismark at the helm.

The Austrians seem to have strengthened their forces in Bukovina with the idea of thwarting the formidable Russian advance in the Carpathians. That, according to British opinion, explains the Austrian incursion of Russia over the Dniester at a point near Czernowitz.

WATAUGA MERCHANT FILES PETITION IN BANKRUPTCY

G. F. Bingham, a merchant of Watauga, Watauga county, filed today in the office of the clerk of the United States court clerk a petition voluntary bankruptcy. The petitioner claims that he is unable to pay of his debts, and asks for the reorganization of his business under the laws in bankruptcy proceedings.

BRING ON R.Y. OWNERSHIP OF STEAMSHIPS, APRIL 25

Washington, April 1.—The Interstate Commerce Commission has announced April 25 as the date of the opening for the Southern railway, the Cape Fear, the Norfolk & Western, the Seaboard Air Line and Atlantic Coast line to defend their share of the Old Dominion Steamship line and the Virginia Navigation Company in contravention to the Panama act.

KING OF ENGLAND MAY SIGN PLEDGE

Willing to Set Example to Laborers by Abstaining From Liquor.

London, April 1.—Drink is blamed to a large extent by King George for England's inability to obtain necessary war materials for the army in the field in a letter sent by the king's private secretary, Lord Stamfordham, to Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd George.

His majesty "feels that nothing but the most vigorous measures will successfully cope with the grave situation now existing in our armament factories," the letter says, and "if it is deemed advisable, will be prepared to set an example by giving up all alcoholic liquor himself and by issuing orders against its consumption in the royal households."

The king thanks you for so promptly letting him have a full report of the proceedings at Tuesday's meeting of the deputation of employers. His majesty has read it with intense interest also with the deepest concern. He feels that nothing but the most vigorous measures will successfully cope with the grave situation now existing in our armament factories.

"We have before us the statements not merely of the employers, but of the admiralty and the war office, which are responsible for munitions of war and for the transport of troops and their food and ammunition. From this evidence it is without doubt largely due to drink that we are unable to secure the output of war material indispensable to meet the requirements of the army in the field and that there has been such serious delay in consequence of the necessary reinforcements of supplies to aid our gallant troops at the front."

"A continuance of such a state of things must inevitably result in the prolongation of the horrors and burdens of this terrible war."

"I am instructed to add that, if it is deemed advisable, the king will be prepared to set an example by giving up all alcoholic liquor himself and by issuing orders against its consumption in the royal households so that no difference shall be made, so far as his majesty is concerned, between the treatment of the rich and the poor in this question."

(Signed) "LORD STAMFORDHAM, The King's private secretary."

HELD FOR SUPPLYING SUBMARINES WITH OIL

Dutch Cargo Ship Captured by British Torpedo Boats on Suspicion.

London, April 1.—Dispatches to the Exchange Telegraph company from New Haven on the English coast, a port on the Sussex coast, say that the Dutch cargo ship Lode-wijk Van Nassau has been brought into New Haven by two British torpedo boats on suspicion that she had been supplying German submarines with fuel oil.

The Van Nassau had a cargo of oil which is now being examined. When the torpedo boats halted, the Dutch ship she refused to stop, but was eventually brought to a halt.

PUBLICATION OF U. S. NOTE IS POSTPONED

Washington, April 1.—At the request of the British foreign office the American note concerning the British order in council, instead of being published simultaneously here and in London tomorrow will not be published until the morning of Wednesday, April 7. It was explained that the week-end and Easter holidays made the postponement desirable.

GENERAL HUERTA HAS ARRIVED AT ADEQUAS

London, April 1.—A Gibraltar dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company says that General Victoriano Huerta, former provisional president of Mexico, has arrived at Adequas. Advice last night from Madrid were to the effect that General Huerta sailed yesterday from Cadix, ostensibly for Buenos Ayres.

NEWS FROM THE STATE CAPITAL

Highway Commission Organizes With Governor Craig as Chairman—Prof. Stacy Does Not Serve.

HICKERSON NAMED IN STACY'S PLACE

Large Corporations Are Chartered—Corporation Commission Engaged in Appointing Assessors.

(By W. T. Bost.)

Raleigh, April 1.—The North Carolina Highway commission organized here yesterday and made Raleigh its home. Governor Craig being chosen chairman of the commission and Colonel Mennehan Cameron, author of the bill, chairman pro tem which means the chairmanship in all sessions which the governor does not attend. Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt of Chapel Hill is secretary, and in place of Prof. M. H. Stacy, who was originally chosen from the university, Prof. T. F. Hickerson was appointed. The committee as now constituted is composed of Governor Craig, Col. Benjamin Cameron of Durham, Guy V. Roberts of Marshall, Madison county; El C. Duncan of Carteret county, though a resident of Raleigh also; Prof. W. C. Riddick of the A. & M. college, and Prof. T. F. Hickerson of the university.

The regular meetings of the commission will be in January and July, but called meetings are provided for in the bill. The bill for commission which was created to advance public roads in North Carolina, had a hard passage as any that went before the general assembly. Two placed among the high priests of standstillism saved the bill. They were Doughton of Allegheny and Bowie of Ashe, speaker of the house. It was upon this bill that Bowie cast his first vote to break a tie.

Of course the bill did not get through in its original shape. It was to have \$30,000, but nobody could muzzle the watchdogs of the treasury and give brains a chance to work out the state's salvation from mud and fear and trembling. Under the provisions of the bill not only does the state have a chance to do some expert road building, but it has an opportunity to apply for its pro rata of the national act which allots this state \$650,000.

It could not have passed but for a compromise in the appropriation and a concession to party membership. Representative Leonard, who is something of a highway commission man, made the demagogue give the act a republican representative and that's how Mr. Duncan was named.

The Granville Loan and Insurance Company of Creedmoor has been chartered with \$25,000 authorized capital and C. H. Cozart, E. B. Moss and J. E. Purgason incorporators.

The Greenboro Hotel company has been incorporated with \$25,000 authorized capital and \$255 paid in. W. D. McCado, J. R. Clements and W. H. Plummer are the promoters.

Another charter was the Highland Cordage company of Hickory with \$50,000 authorized capital; Charles H. Geisner, K. C. Menzies and A. A. Shuford incorporators.

A case in a justice's court which will give attorneys who are well mixed in city and county politics a chance to go at each other is that against Joe Eastman, George Cross and Ernest Horton, well known young men who are charged with assault upon Archie Caudle of Rowan county, clerk in the White cafe. It will be tried today after many continuances.

Mr. Caudle says the visitors to the cafe came in there two weeks ago and raised a row while a woman patron was present. The clerk resented it and ordered them out. They flew on him with salt cellars and other restaurant weapons but hurt him very little even with three to one. The proprietor, George White, was hauled out but was crippled and unable to contend.

The corporation commission is working hard upon its county assessments and has probably 90 of the 100 to be appointed to value property in North Carolina, chosen for this thankless job.

There are not ready for publication and will probably not be for two or three days. The commission will appoint one county supervisor and the county commissioners one township assessor. This was the feature of the machinery act that made it so difficult to get through without amendments but it passed by a close vote.

DEFINITE MILITARY POLICY PLANNED

Secretary Garrison Purposes Reorganization of United States Army.

Washington, April 1.—Plans for reorganizing the army and laying before congress a basis for a permanent national military policy are being worked out by the general staff assisted by the general officers of the army. Secretary Garrison announced last night that he had ordered this entire subject restudied, since, in view of increasing public interest in military matters it had been deemed advisable to abandon the reorganization plan prepared in 1912.

The secretary outlined the study to be undertaken as follows: "First, the reasonable strength and organization of the regular army and the organized militia.

"Second, a careful study of the question of a reserve for both the regular army and the organized militia.

"Third, the volunteers, their organization and relation to the regular army and organized militia.

"Fourth, the amount and character of reserve material and supplies which should be available and which cannot be promptly obtained if delayed all the outbreak of war.

"Fifth, a careful study of all the accessories required by a military force properly equipped for field service in respect to such matters as aviation, motor transportation to replace horse-drawn vehicles, etc."

As to coast defense, Mr. Garrison said a policy long has been established and pursued, and that subject would be studied only to see that the defense were kept abreast of improvement in army ordnance.

ESCAPED CONVICT ON WAY TO N. C.

Earl Cotton Captured in Kentucky Will Be Returned to State Prison.

Lexington, Ky., April 1.—Earl Cotton, who escaped from the North Carolina prison farm four years ago after he had served six years of a prison sentence on the charge of murder, passed through here today in custody of a deputy warden en route for Raleigh. He was captured at Whitesburg, Ky.

Cotton declared that two companions betrayed him for a reward of \$25. He was convicted of complicity in causing the death of E. W. Smith at Raleigh.

FRENCH STEAMER WAS TORPEDOED IS BELIEF

Two Members of Crew Picked up—Feared Other 17 Were Drowned.

London, April 1.—There is reason to believe that a French steamer was torpedoed Tuesday by a German submarine in the English channel. The name of the steamer has not as yet been learned. Two of the members of the crew were saved, but it is feared that the others, numbering 17 were lost. The two survivors were brought to Dover today. They were picked up in the English channel by a vessel which also has on board the bodies of two other members of the crew.

The steamer was on her way to Bordeaux when she encountered the submarine.

TO SPEND \$20,000 TO BRING SUNKEN SUBMARINE TO TOP

Washington, April 1.—The expenditure of \$20,000 to bring the sunken submarine F-4 to the surface at Honolulu harbor has been authorized by Secretary Daniels after he had received a message from Rear Admiral Moore saying that the hawser which was attached to the submarine had parted and that the present equipment is too light to raise the craft.

ROW IN ORIENT MORE CRITICAL

Situation More Serious Than at Any Time Since Japan Made Demands, Diplomats Believe.

JAPAN STANDING PAT ON CONCESSION-ASKED

Chinese Fear That Further Pressure Will Be Exerted by Japan—Conference Tomorrow.

Peking, April 1.—In diplomatic circles the situation arising from Japan's negotiations concerning her demands on China is regarded as more serious now than at any time since the conferences to this end were inaugurated.

After further conferences between President Yuan Shi Kai and the foreign minister, Lu Chen Hsiang, the Chinese persisted in their declaration that they cannot accord any extraterritorial rights to Japanese immigrants in Manchuria. At the conference yesterday Mr. Hioki, the Japanese minister refused to discuss the matter further. It was believed conference would be held today will probably result in breaking the deadlock. If this fails it is felt in some quarters that Japan will present an ultimatum.

At the conference Mr. Hioki assumed an attitude of firmness which the Chinese fear may indicate that further pressure will be exerted on China.

MATAMORAS BATTLE ABOUT TO START

Skirmishes Taking Place Today—Aeroplane to Arrive Today for Carranza.

Brownsville, Tex., April 1.—Considerable rifle firing between Villa scouting parties and the Carranza trenches in Matamoros took place early today. The firing stopped entirely before daybreak.

Two hundred bombs are, it is said, being manufactured in Brownsville for the use of Carranza aviators in the defense of Matamoros, provided the aeroplane arrives from New York in time to use it. Carranza officials claimed today that it was due here Monday.

The arrival here of field guns for the Villa attackers and the time when they will renew the attack are matters of considerable secrecy. Although the artillery was reported to be only 75 miles away at the beginning of the attack, Villa forces seem to be in no hurry to get them in action.

ANTI-JUG LAW WENT INTO EFFECT TODAY

Raleigh, April 1.—The law recently passed by the North Carolina general assembly limiting the liquor to be delivered to one person to one quart every two weeks and five gallons of beer in the same period went into effect today, and as a result the express companies began to return to shippers all packages which had not been delivered prior to last midnight.

CITY SCHOOLS TO HAVE GOOD FRIDAY VACATION

Good Friday, which comes tomorrow, will be observed as a full day's holiday in the white schools of the city, both the common grades and the high school being scheduled for a full day of rest. The colored schools will also be given a full day's holiday but the day selected is announced as Saturday, which is the last day of their school week. It is the custom of the city schools to give a vacation on this day each year, which also serves as a spring vacation day.

In accordance with the vacation days selected for the schools of the city, the white schools will not convene until Monday of the coming week and the colored schools will not take up until Tuesday.

FOUR LIVES AND \$200,000 LOST IN MAINE FIRE

Watertown, Me., March 31.—Four lives were lost and \$200,000 damage caused by a fire which practically destroyed the village of Norfolk, in St. Lawrence county early today.

RAIDER IS STILL TAKING ON COAL

BARON ROTHSCHILD OF ENGLAND DEAD

Head of British Banking Firm Dies as Result of an Operation.

London, April 1.—Nathan Rothschild, first Baron Rothschild, head of the British branch of the great banking firm, died at his London residence late yesterday. He had undergone an operation for the removal of the prostate gland Saturday, although the first intimation of this was contained in a bulletin sent to the London papers late Saturday night, saying the baron was progressing satisfactorily.

On Sunday a bulletin said that he had recovered from the first effects of the operation and the impression was that, despite his age, there was no danger. Yesterday morning, however, it was announced that the patient had spent a restless night and that his condition was not so favorable.

Funeral services will be held Friday at Willesden, a northwest suburb of London.

News of Lord Rothschild's death created a shock. His popularity had spread far beyond financial, social and sporting circles, as all classes shared his benevolence.

In Jewish circles the death of Baron Rothschild creates a vacancy which there is none to fill. With his other manifold duties he devoted a great amount of his time and money to his poorer co-religionists. Since the war broke out he added to all these voluntary duties the presidency of the British Red Cross society, which has raised a subscription of \$1,500,000 within a few months for the care of the wounded, and it is believed, consequently, work and worry had much to do with his death.

Among the first to send condolences to the family were the king and queen and the Queen Mother Alexandra.

Lord Rothschild's heir, the Hon. Lionel W. Rothschild, who reined his regiment, the royal Bucks Yeomanry on the outbreak of the war, is not so well known as other members of the family. He has devoted his attention to the study of zoology and has been a consistent supporter of racing. Although in the house of commons for a time he took little part in debates.

GERMAN STATEMENT ON WAR PROGRESS

Army Staff Claims Success; Enemy Repulsed on Both Frontiers.

Berlin, April 1.—The German army headquarters has made the following statement: "West of Pont-a-Mousson French attacks east of Reimsville and in the forest of Le Pretre were repulsed. The enemy sustained heavy losses and in only one place west of the Forest of Le Pretre does the engagement continue."

Hostile aviators have bombarded the Belgian towns of Bruges, Ghent and Courtrai without damage to military establishments. In Courtrai, near a hospital one Belgian was killed and one was wounded.

"On the Russian frontier in the district north of Memel the banks of the river have been cleared of the enemy. The Russians have been defeated at Tauraggen and have retired in the direction of Soudrwy. Russian forces which during the last few days advanced north of the Augustowo forest against German positions, have been repulsed by the Germans who advanced into the forest lakes district near Sejny. The number of Russian prisoners taken in the engagements near Kranopol, and to the north and east has been increased by 500. Near Klimki on the Skwa 270 more Russian prisoners were taken."

STRIKE IN SEATTLE KEEPS POLICE BUSY

Seattle, Wash., March 31.—The police are busy today preventing attacks on street cars as a result of a strike called by the employees of the Puget Sound Traffic, Light and Power company. The rioting began last night after a strike had been voted at a mass meeting of the men of all labor unions. It is said that the strike was called in an attempt to compel recognition of their union.

German Cruiser Eitel Filling Bunkers as if in Preparation for Dash From Newport News.

NOT LIKELY SHIP WILL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY

Much Secrecy Prevails—Soldiers Guard Cruiser's Pier and Sailors Are Patrolling Adjacent Waters.

Newport News, April 1.—At 8 o'clock today the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich, which began taking on coal at this port yesterday, was still filling her bunkers under the supervision of the United States navy officials. Soldiers from Fortress Monroe who were sent to guard the cruiser's pier remained on duty, and the James River, navy launch manned by sailors from the Alabama patrolled the waters adjacent to the sea raider. No one without authority was permitted to enter the ship yard.

That Commander Thierichens is not preparing to move his cruiser immediately at least appears likely, as it is known that the ship has only reserve boilers steaming. Smoke was coming from only one funnel. Sixteen hundred tons were delivered alongside the German ship on barges late yesterday and the crew immediately began the task of coaling the vessel.

When the coal arrived at the shipyard where the Eitel Friedrich is docked orders were at once given to bar all approaches to the yard for the night. Captain Thierichens requested the Washington government to furnish a patrol for the pier which his ship occupies and marines were sent from the Norfolk navy yard for this duty. Approach to the pier from the river front as well as from land entrances to the yards were effectively barred.

Efforts to gain admission to the yards even before dark were unavailing and notices were given that it would be useless to appeal to shipyard officials for permission to enter the yards. Attempts to get near the pier by launch in the James river also were frustrated.

Coaling the ship was begun about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. As the first sacks were hoisted from the barges, the ship's band struck up a German national air and at frequent intervals until a late hour the band working sailors labored to patriotic music accompaniment. At the rate the ship was being coaled it was estimated that the supply allotted to the German commander by the American government would be in the vessel's hold before morning.

Permission was given Commander Thierichens to coal the merchant raider following a neutrality conference in Norfolk late Tuesday which participated Rear Admiral Beatty, commander of the Norfolk navy yard; Rear Admiral Helm, commander of the reserve Atlantic fleet, whose flagship, the Alabama, guards Hampton Roads tonight, and Norman F. Hamilton, collector of customs for this port. Collector Hamilton came to Newport News from Norfolk just before the coal barges arrived and sent an official message to Commander Thierichens.

What Commander Thierichens proposed to do still remained a mystery. One report was that he wished to have his ship piloted to the Norfolk navy yard to be interned under the neutrality laws of nations. Another was that he proposed before many days to make a dash for the open sea and make a daring attempt to run the blockade of British and French warships waiting for him off the Virginia capes. Why he should take on board so much bunker coal if he intends to intern his ship was explained in one source on the ground that the German commander wished to make a break for liberty up to the very last minute in order to hold the allied warships off the Virginia coast.

Washington authorities are known to be thoroughly aware of the intentions of the Eitel's commander. Messages were interchanged late in the day between the treasury department and customs office here, and the navy department and navy yard command at Norfolk.

CARRANZA OFFICERS EN ROUTE TO VERA CRUZ

Brownsville, Tex., April 1.—It is believed here that the 15 Carranza army officers who arrived at New Orleans last night en route to Vera Cruz are part of the forces which left Matamoros two weeks ago. Their departure was not fully explained although it was stated that they were not needed at Matamoros.