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The Asheville Gazette News.

WEATHER FORECAST: GENERALLY FAIR.

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PRESS GERMANS ON 3 SECTORS

French Offensive Developing Between Meuse and Lorraine Frontier—Counter Attacks by Germans.

EX-PREMIER VENIZELOS, GREECE, QUITS POLITICS

Rumor Germany Has Declared War on Holland Not Confirmed — Reports Concerning Allied Fleet.

London, April 9.—The French offensive between the Meuse and the Lorraine frontier is developing where the Germans are making fierce counter attacks. An analysis of the situation by the French general staff shows that the French movement of the last few days has been on three sectors: The first of these is on a front of 14 miles to the east of Verdun, actually southeast from a point near Etain; the second is on a front between St. Mihiel and Pont-a-Mousson, where the French are attacking from the south; and the third is in the north in the vicinity of Gussainville, where the French now dominate the valley of the Orne and are threatening the railroad beyond the Orne. The French advance is thus pressing from three bases, in three different directions.

Paris officially reports that the French forces are fighting on a front many miles long, and have occupied new ground measuring from several hundred yards to two miles deep.

That the Germans are resisting the French advance stubbornly is indicated by the French report that at one point of attack they left 1000 dead.

From a diplomatic standpoint interest is centered in Greece. Former Premier Venizelos apparently has despaired of obtaining King Constantine's support to his efforts to secure a retraction repudiating the policies of the present cabinet, and has decided to retire from politics and may leave the country.

Special dispatches from Hungary say the Russians are fighting the battles in the Carpathians with deliberate policies in view, the chief of which is the sever Hungary from the dual monarchy.

Dispatches from Athens say the allied fleet facing the Dardanelles is not far from Bolair on the Gallipoli peninsula, but this is without confirmation.

Nothing has come to hand to confirm the rumor, current yesterday, that Germany had declared war on Holland. Military movements were reported on the Dutch border, but military activity has continually marked Holland's neutrality in the past.

ALLIES WANT TO KNOW.

Paris, April 9.—The allies are considering the advisibility of opening fresh pourparlers with the Bulgarian government in order to learn definitely the position Bulgaria intends to take in the European crisis, says the Petit Parisien's Rome correspondent.

BUSINESS GETTING STEADILY BETTER

Marked Improvement All Over the Country Shown by Bank Reports.

Washington, April 9.—Business conditions throughout the country are showing marked improvement in almost all lines, according to reports from national bank examiners made public last night by the treasury department. Eighty of the ninety examiners in the United States reported a permanent improvement, and Maine is said to be the only state where real depression exists.

"Pronounced hopefulness is prevalent in nearly every district," says the announcement. "Agricultural conditions are generally excellent and commercial lines with comparatively few exceptions, are enlarging their activities, mainly through an increased demand, but in some cases preparation for activity is expected to develop with the coming of good weather. Manufacturing is on the increase and those industries having orders for supplies from foreign countries continue especially active.

"Further orders have been placed for cars and rails by the railroads and some large contracts have been made for structural iron for large buildings in different portions of the country."

The statement attributes depression to unusual conditions abroad, but says business here has been stableized through the application of economy.

"The south," it continues, is showing marked improvement. The sale of cotton is active at advancing prices, with the result that all business in that section is feeling a steady and pronounced improvement. The prospects for large crops generally are excellent and there will be greater diversification.

"The western states and the Pacific states are showing a general improvement.

"The New England and middle Atlantic states and portions of the central west, although generally reporting an improvement, seem to feel the past depression to the greatest extent. Farmers, however, generally have had satisfactory results; but manufacturing, with the exception of that to fill foreign orders, is feeling the improvement to the least extent. There is improvement, however, in most lines. Savings bank deposits are increasing and generally banks have an abundance of money.

ALLEGED YEGGMEN ARE ARRESTED AT MARION

Entered the Town in an Automobile and Were Soon Arrested.

Special to The Gazette-News.

Marion, April 8.—Great excitement prevailed in Marion throughout yesterday, due to the fact that the officers believe that they have behind the bars two noted yeggmen who have been operating at Williamston, Honea Path and other points in South Carolina.

Yesterday afternoon two strangers appeared in Marion driving an automobile bearing a Florida license. Soon a telegram authorizing the arrest of parties bearing the descriptions of two strangers who had attracted attention, was received. They were soon located at a local hotel, and their names appeared upon the register as J. F. Leighson, of San Francisco, and E. D. Davis, of Chicago. Both vigorously protested, but they were locked up to await the arrival of a postoffice inspector, who has had the case in charge. The automobile with the baggage of the two men was locked up also in a local garage. Immediately upon the arrival of No. 12 this afternoon a great crowd gathered in front of the garage to await the inspection of the trunk and other baggage, but they were disappointed, the inspector had all the baggage removed to the jail and no information is available as to the contents. Sufficient proof has been found, however, to justify the inspector to swear out warrants before the local United States commissioner.

TO MOVE ITALIAN TROOPS.

Geneva, April 9.—Railroad rolling stock is being withdrawn by Italy from the Swiss frontier, it is reported here, for the transportation of troops and military stores destined for the region bordering on the Austrian Tyrol.

GERMANY WILL PAY FOR FRYE

At Same Time Upholding Legality of Prinz Eitel's Action in Sinking U. S. Sailing Ship.

CONTENDS CARGO OF WHEAT CONTRABAND

Will Make Reparation Under Terms of Old Treaties Between United States and Prussia.

Washington, April 9.—Germany's intention to compensate the owners of the American ship William P. Frye, sunk on the high seas with her cargo of wheat, by the commerce raider, Prinz Eitel Friendrich, has been communicated formally to the United States government.

Ambassador Gerard cabled a note handed him by the Berlin foreign office in reply to the recent American communication submitting an indemnity claim for $228,059.54 on behalf of the Frye's owners. The foreign office upholds the legaity under international law of the raider's action in sinking the Frye and bases the liability of the German government to pay indemnity solely on the old Prussian-American treaties of 1799 and 1828, which provide that contraband belonging to the subjects or citizens of either party cannot be confiscated by the other and may be detained or used only in consideration of payment of the full value.

In view of this situation the note says, the American owners must be compensated for their loss. It is pointed out, however, that the case must go into a prize court, that questions of ownership, carg and destination may be established formally.

The German position is that the Frye's cargo of wheat was contraband because it was consigned "for orders" to Queenstown, which is declared to be a fortified port of Great Britain. No notice is taken of the fact that, since the wheat was sold en route to British citizens, the United States filed a claim for the vessel only.

Officials here were somewhat surprised at the nature of the German note, because of the bearing it may have on negotiations between Washington and London over the allies' blockade of Germany and Austria. The United States has insisted that upon the belligerent seizing a cargo consigned "to order" rested the burden of proof that the goods were destined for armed forces of an enemy.

TANZER CASE WITNESS INDICTED FOR PERJURY

Hotel Clerk Safford Who Identified J. W. Osborne as Man in Case.

New York, April 9.—The first indictment growing out of the charges made by Miss Rae Tanzer against James W. Osborne and later recanted by her, was returned by the Federal grand jury here yesterday when a bill charging Frank D. Safford with perjury was handed down.

Safford, at the hearing accorded Miss Tanzer on the charge of using the mails in an attempt to defraud, identified Jas. W. Osborne as the man who appeared at the hotel, where he was employed as a clerk, with Miss Tanzer. Miss Tanzer later confessed that she had been mistaken in naming James W. Osborne as the man.

The indictment specifies two assignments. It alleges that Safford committed perjury when he identified James W. Osborne as the man he had seen at the hotel, and when he swore that Miss Tanzer was with him at the time.

The grand jury will complete its investigation today and additional indictments, it was said at the office of the federal attorney are expected.

ALL MEN, EXCEPT AGES 19-20 ARE CALLED OUT IN TURKEY

London, April 9.—The sultan of Turkey has authorized his war minister, according to a Reuter dispatch, to call out all men capable of bearing arms who have not heretofore been liable for military service, inclusive of the ages of 19 and 20 years to defend the Turkish posts and frontiers and to maintain order. The minister was also given the power to enroll for military service all immigrants for the duration of the war.

RECEIVERS FOR BIG COMPANY

J. B. Greenhut Co., Large Department Store, Fails With Liabilities Aggregating Millions.

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL STOCK OF $6,000,000

Friendly Suit Instituted by Monmouth Securities Co.—Consolidated With the Siegel-Cooper Co.

New York, April 9.—Receivers have been appointed by Federal Judge Hand for the J. B. Greenhut company which operates a large department store in this city. Receivership was asked by the Monmouth Securities company and the defendants consented to the appointment. Walter C. Noyes and William A. Marble were named as receivers under bonds of $100,000.

The J. B. Greenhut company had an authorized and outstanding capital stock of $6,000,000 and a bond issue of $6,000,000, sinking fund gold 6 per cent bonds. Under the provisions of the bond issue $150,000 in bonds was to be retired annually. The Central Trust company of New York was trustee.

Two corporate changes have been made since the incorporation of the company, November 16, 1910: First when Greenhut and company was consolidated with Siegel-Cooper company under the name of Greenhut-Siegel-Cooper company. Last May the name was changed to the J. B. Greenhut company. J. B. Greenhut was president.

The department store conducted by the company, long known as the Siegel-Cooper store, occupied both blocks on Sixth avenue between 18th and 19th streets.

The assets are listed in the complaint at $7,465,419, including merchandise, cash and accounts receivable. The liabilities, it is stated, aggregate $3,513,060, not including the mortgage liability amounting to approximately $2,950,000.

J. B. Greenhut is also treasurer of the Monmouth Securities company.

The suit is based on indebtedness approximating $200,000, alleged to be due the securities company, representing money loaned the J. B. Greenhut company.

MITCHELL COMMISSION WILL MEET TOMORROW

Organization Meeting Takes Place in Burnsville on Saturday at 10 O'clock.

The Mount Mitchell commission named by Governor Locke Craig on March 31, holds its first meeting in Burnsville tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. T. E. Blackstock, the member of the commission from Buncombe county, left the city this morning for Burnsville to be present at the tomorrow's meeting. The other members of the commission are: G. P. Deyton of Green Mountain, E. F. Watson and M. C. Hunnicutt of Burnsville, and Wilson Hensley of Ball Creek.

The first meeting of the commission is for the purpose of electing a chairman and formulating plans for carrying out the work on Mount Mitchell authorized by the last general assembly. It will be remembered that the legislature appropriated $20,000 for this work and authorized the governor to appoint a commission to take charge of the mountain.

A NEW CAPTAIN FOR HOOK AND LADDER CO.

At a recent meeting of Hook and Ladder company No. 1, of the Asheville Fire dpartment, A. L. Duckett was elected captain. Captain Duckett has been a member of the local fire department for several years and is considered one of its most faithful members.

CAPTURED ARTILLERY.

Berlin, April 9.—(By Wireless)—An official list published here today says that in Germany since March there is a total of 5510 pieces of captured artillery, including 3300 Belgian heavy and light; French 1300, Russian 860, and British 60.

STILL WORK ON TANGLED LINES

Fifty Linemen Will Be Kept Busy Many Days Repairing Storm Damage at Raleigh.

UNDERGROUND WIRES TO BE ORDERED SOON

Governor Names Commission on Revision of Court Proceedure—Another Row in Wake County.

(By W. T. Bost).

Raleigh, April 9.—The storm of Friday night and Saturday which seems to have had its center in Raleigh, did enough damage to keep more than fifty linemen busy nearly as many days.

The Western Union and the Postal Telegraph companies, the two telephone systems and the Carolina Power and Light company have had special squads at work since the first trouble but Wednesday nearly three score additional came here to disentagnle the Western Union and the Carolina Power and Light company's cables. The power and light company's forty men will be on their job forty odd days. The damage done to their system begins many miles in the interior while Raleigh suffered particularly from a trouble which has never come to it before.

The Western Union was far worse off in getting a restored communication than the Postal was. But both now have wires in working order, albeit the newspaper men who had specials last night after the trains had taken their last copy were unable to get press messages across on account of previously filed matter of more commercial value to the companies.

City Engineer John W. Mangum anounces for the city that it will immediately order all telephone, telegraph and light and power company wires in the fire district placed under the ground as a safeguard against future fire.

The fire alarm system is to be installed under ground and since the fire district covers a good portion of Raleigh, the order will perhaps determine the whole policy of laying underground wires in the city. The darkness of the last half dozen days has been dispelled by lights in the residences and the sentiment for underground lighting will also stand the raise in the price of distribution if there is a raise.

Revise Court Procedure.

Governor Craig has appointed the commission for the revision of court procedure, a body created by the late general assembly and to consist of a Supreme court justice, a Superior court judge, two practicing attorneys and one layman.

The members appointed by the governor are Chief Justice Walter Clark of the Supreme court, Judge W. J. Adams of the Superior court, Ex-Judge William P. Bynum of Guilford, Senator L. V. Bassett of Edgecombe and Senator Hugh G. Chatham of Winston-Salem.

Under the resolution the commission must make its report before January 1, 1917, in time to be spread before the general assembly of that year. In the general assembly which adjourned in March, the resolution providing for this work was considered one of the biggest things taken up by it. The appointments by Governor Craig not only embrace both political parties but the various elements in the political parties. Among court reformers none is more outspoken for changes than Judge Clark, the head of the judiciary in this state. The governor picked the preeminent progressive of the judges.

The 800 pages of the Carter-Abernathy investigation have been compiled by the stenographer, Alf Gosney, who is now multigraphing the work to put in the hands of the special committee.

The committee announced its return April 27 but has changed the date to April 26 when it comes here to sit for two days or more. It expects to finish the work as soon as it has an opportunity to go over the whole record.

If the state papers and the traveling public are any sort of index to the general feeling in the state, a more serious thing than the obliteration of the Abernathy record would hardly be expected as the investigation undoubtedly made friends for Judge Carter. Solicitor Abernathy not being under actual investigation and being in an eastern district with a local office, nobody has even thought he was under any charge except the accusation of a judge who was in a row with him.

Auditor and Commissioners Mix.

The long expected conflict between Auditor Henry Holding and the county commissioners has become a public record and Wednesday evening at the close of the third day the commissioners ordered the abolish-

(Continued on Page Three).

LESS DRUNKENNESS HERE UNDER THE NEW LAW

Twice as Many Arrests Last Week of March as First Week of April.

That the new Grier law, or as it is better known, Anti-jug law, which went into effect April 1, is responsible for less drunkenness in this city is the belief of several of the officers of the police department of this city. There seems to have been a halt to the large number of "drunks" that heretofore appeared in Police court, almost daily.

The records at the central police headquarters show that for the past eight days, the time that the new law has been in effect, only eight people have been arrested in Asheville on charges of being drunk in the city.

During April the first Saturday and Sunday showed a material falling off in the number of "drunks" falling in the hands of the police. The last Saturday and Sunday of March held up the usual record of many people being arrested on charges of imbibing too freely.

When the law used to be that a person could order all the booze he might have thought he could drink, this gave the blind tigers great leeway and in a short time walking saloons could be discovered very easily, so persons with a memory state, if the thirsty party cared to spend a minute or so in a search.

Then the war on booze really began. A law was passed making it illegal to receive more than one gallon a week. If over that much was found in a person's possession, it was construed as prima facie evidence of engaging in the sale of whiskey. But this law, created to eradicate the numerous blind tigers that had taken up the business founded by saloons, did not work with what could exactly be called success and, as a last resort, the Grier law, naming a quart as the maximum amount of rum that can be received by one person in 15 days, was passed.

The Quart Law.

The quart law went into effect just one week ago yesterday and was productive of business fully up to the rush experienced by the express company during the Christmas holidays. Now that the law is one week old, police officers are beginning to claim that it is "some law," inasmuch as a low record for arrests for that heretofore common cause, drunkenness, has been made, with a very good prospect of the number going still lower.

There is but one fly in the ointment, say the officers, and that is "sugar skat," headache producing fluid distilled from brown sugar. It is said that this variety of rum can be produced very cheaply and it is known to have all and more power than corn or rye whiskey. Should the United States revenue employes be able to cope with the situation and to keep the brewers of booze made from sugar corn also, from getting too active, and the United States employes are making great efforts and records to do so, the Grier law may prove to be the long needed enactment to make the state experience prohibition.

ASHEVILLE MOTOR CLUB TO PLACE ROAD SIGNS

Signs to Be Placed on the Roads in the Vicinity of Asheville.

At the meeting of the Asheville Motor club last night it was decided to place danger signals on the curves and grades on the roads in the vicinity of Asheville for the benefit of travelers who are not familiar with the highways. A supply of attractive signs has been received recently, and the members of the club last night volunteered for the work of erecting them.

The club endorsed the movement for the publication of a map and tour book of western North Carolina, and appropriated $50 to help defray the expenses of the publication. This will be the most comprehensive road book ever published, it is stated, and it is believed that it will be the means of attracting many automobilists to this section.

The committee named some time ago to work for the passage of a city ordinance requiring all vehicles on the streets at night to be equipped with lights was continued with instructions to continue work for the measure.

BRITISH SAY FALABA WAS NOT ARMED WHEN DESTROYED

London, April 9.—The official information bureau has issued a statement detailing that the British steamer Falaba, sunk March 28 by a German submarine, with a loss of over 100 lives, was not armed and that sufficient time was not given the passengers and crew of the Falaba, to escape.

The people aboard the Falaba were given five minutes to take the boats and it would have been miraculous, it is pointed out, if all had escaped.

NO DECISION ON DRINK QUESTION

English Cabinet Having Failed To Reach Settlement, Matter to Come Up Before The Parliament.

HEADS OF THE VARIOUS CHURCHES WILL ABSTAIN

Scotland, If Solid, Might Defeat Prohibition Measure, She Consumes More Than Others.

London, April 9.—The cabinet having failed to reach a decision on the drink question, no settlement of the problem is expected until the meeting of parliament next week. The impression is growing that the government will content itself with a measure prohibiting the sale of spirits.

Conservative leaders, A. J. Balfour and Andrew Bonar Law, it is believed, have already promised assent to whatever action the government may take, provided that no measure for total prohibition is considered at this time.

In proposing prohibition for saloon spirits and possibly wines and less strength for beer, Great Britain would be following in the footsteps of Russia which before adopting total prohibition forbade the manufacture and use of spirits.

Even prohibition of traffic in spirits is not likely to be adopted without considerable opposition. The influence of the party favoring voluntary abstenance is growing. The latest recruits to this are the heads of various churches who have signed pledges to abstain from the use of intoxicants.

Opposition to the suppression of the use of spirits is to some degree sectional. Since Scotland consumes per capita three times as much spirits as does England and half again as much as Ireland, Scottish opposition, if solid, might defeat prohibition measure.

BURGLARS ENTER LADY'S ROOM AT STATESVILLE

Miss Sarah Burke Finds Door Fastened, But Intruder Escapes Through Window.

Special to The Gazette-News.

Statesville, April 9.—When Miss Sarah Burke, of Taylorsville, who is employed in a Statesville millinery establishment, went to her room on the second floor of W. L. Cornelius about 10 o'clock Tuesday night, she found that the door would not open. She called to Mr. Cornelius, and when the latter threw his weight against the door it came open, but was immediately forced shut again by some one on the inside and locked.

It was found that the intruder had escaped through a window. Rushing outside the house the tracks of a man were found below the window, but he had made good his escape. In swinging from the upper window he had broken the glass in a lower floor window.

BELGIAN VICTORY ON YSER CANAL REPORTED

London, April 9.—The Belgian legation has received the following telegram, dated Wednesday, from the Belgian war minister:

"The west side of the Yser canal in the direction of Drei Grachten has been completely freed of the enemy by the Belgian army. The Germans fled in disorder, leaving machine guns and ammunition.

"Today passed quietly. The hostile artillery showed little activity."

FIND SUBMARINE BASE.

Copenhagen, April 9.—Norwegian airmen have been scouring the Norwegian coast investigating rumors that German submarines have a base located in some sheltered spot in neutral waters. They found several German submarines just behind the cliff at Bergen bay.

The submarines were [illegible] to leave immediately [illegible] for the rest of [illegible]