

## POSITION OF RUSSIANS FROM VILNA TO GALICIA IS IMPROVING GREATLY

Muscovite Score Heavily at Three Points: East of Vilna, North of Pinsk, in Vicinity of Lutsk.

SITUATION IS LESS FAVORABLE IN NORTH

Von Hindenburg Is Resisted Stubbornly But Fate of Drvinsk Is In Doubt—England Encouraged.

London, Sept. 25.—The position of the Russian forces from Vilna to the Galician frontier appears to be improving greatly. Three distinct victories have been recorded by the Russians at widely scattered points on the astrn front.

These achievements have mitigated the uneasiness felt in England over the attitude of Bulgaria. In the far north the situation is less favorable. The Russians are resisting Field Marshal von Hindenburg with characteristic stubbornness but the admission that fighting is proceeding at Smelin, three miles from Alexandrovsk, indicates that the approaches to that city are in the hands of the Germans and the fate of Drvinsk is in doubt.

East of Vilna, north of Pinsk and in the vicinity of Lutsk the Russians have scored heavily. The Germans characterize the reverse east of Vilna—that is, at the Vileika railway junction as of temporary character, notwithstanding the loss of guns and prisoners.

Near Pinsk Field Marshal von Mackensen has been thrown back in an engagement that has shaken his grip on that city.

Further to the south the Russians are now holding Lutsk and are pressing their advance which seems to assume a dominance of the southern end of the line in a manner which recalls the fighting of last spring.

Athens states the mobilization of the Greek army is proceeding and that thousands of men are already in uniform.

Athens, Sept. 24.—A decree for general mobilization of 20 classes of Greek soldiers was signed last night by King Constantine. The decision of the king has aroused great enthusiasm.

Paris, Sept. 25.—A message from Sofia, Bulgaria, to the Havas News agency makes definite announcement that the mobilization of Bulgarian troops, reported to have been postponed, has been decided on.

The message says the Official Journal, the organ of the Bulgarian government, today publishes the decree for the mobilization of the classes from 1890 to 1912.

London, September 25.—The Greek minister has received notification from Athens of the signing of the Greek mobilization decree, it being stated that such action by Bulgaria made incumbent on Greece to follow suit.

Berlin, Sept. 25.—Field Marshal von Hindenburg has made further progress in his efforts

## U. S. Exports Pass Three Billion Dollars Mark

Washington, Sept. 25.—Figures today made public by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, department of commerce, show that for the first time in the nation's history exports exceeded \$3,000,000,000 in value for a twelve month period. For the twelve months ending with August 31, 1915, exports from the United States aggregated \$3,035,033,280, against \$2,280,185,791 in a like period one year ago. Twelve months' imports of merchandise totaled \$1,669,698,934 compared with \$1,906,657,516 of last year.

The month of August showed exports valued at \$281,975,771, against \$110,367,494 in August, 1914, an increase of 151,608,277, or 137 per cent. August imports totaled \$141,729,638, against \$129,767,890 in August, 1914, a gain of \$11,961,748, or 9 per cent. Thus, August trade this year shows an export balance of \$120,246,133 as compared with an import balance in August 1914, of \$19,400,296, a favorable change of \$139,646,529.

## Leading Elevens Testing Strength on Minor Teams

New York, Sept. 25.—Most of the leading football teams in the east opened the season today in games with the elevens of colleges of lesser importance. Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Pennsylvania were among the leading teams who today test their football skill for the 1915 season. The Army, Navy and Cornell teams were not included in today's schedule.

Harvard had a game with Colby at Cambridge. The Crimson squad is said to have material for a strong eleven and expected to experience no difficulty with the team from Maine.

## Small Negro Boy Dies On Scaffold In Georgia

Jackson, Ga., Sept. 25.—Joe Persons, a negro boy between 12 and 14 years of age, was hanged in the jail yard yesterday for assaulting an eight-year-old white girl, near this place last June. To the half dozen persons around the scaffold the boy admitted that he had committed the crime, and stoically announced that he was ready to die.

## Financial Commission Enjoying Half Holiday

New York, Sept. 25.—The members of the Anglo-French financial commission who are here arguing for the best terms on which to establish a half billion dollar credit loan for their countries, observed a half holiday, after a brief session today and prepared to leave the city over Sunday.

## PREPARING TO RELEASE AMERICAN OWNED GOODS

Washington, Sept. 25.—The way has been cleared for the release of American owned goods of German and Austrian origin now held up at neutral ports of Europe by the British order-in-council. The British embassy notified the state department that it was prepared to receive applications for permits to export such goods in cases where American importers had either paid for them or rendered themselves liable for the purchase price before March 1, 1915.

## GERMAN LOAN FIGURES

London, Sept. 25.—The total of subscriptions to the new German war loan is given by Reuters' correspondent at Amsterdam at \$1,067,600,000. This is the total given in a message to Amsterdam from Berlin. The aggregate of smaller subscriptions is still unknown.

## FIGHT U. S. MEN FROM TRENCHES

Seven Hundred Entrenched Mexicans Fire on American Troops in Pursuit of Mexican Bandits.

## EARTHWORKS MADE FOR HALF A MILE

Rumored That Troops Sent Out From Matamoras Formed Part of Force That Aided Bandits.

Brownsville, Tex., Sept. 25.—All the Mexicans who took part in the raid yesterday on the village of Progreso are said today to have escaped into Mexico.

Brownsville, Texas, Sept. 25.—Several hundred Mexicans under shelter of a half mile of trenches covered the retreat of seventy to eighty Mexicans who attacked the village of Progreso, Texas, thirty-five miles above here on the Rio Grande river, according to the official report last night of Major Edward Anderson of the Twelfth cavalry.

Private Henry W. Stubbiefield, of Big Stone Gap, Va., was killed, and Captain A. V. Anderson wounded in the arm by the attacking Mexicans, some of whom, it is said, wore Carranza army uniforms. Earlier reports that Private Kennedy also was injured proved incorrect.

Major Anderson's report on the fight has forwarded to Major General Frederick Funston at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. At least two Mexicans are known to have been killed. Last night three detachments of troops B and C of the Twelfth United States cavalry, were stationed in the vicinity of the fight, two of thirty men each at the Progreso crossing of the Rio Grande and one detachment of the Progreso postoffice.

Another serious development yesterday is contained in a rumor received in Brownsville from Matamoras, Mexico, late yesterday that a train load of troops was sent out from Matamoras and that these troops formed a part of a body of men that aided the Mexican bandits in their escape to the Mexican side of the Rio Grande.

The trenches, it is said, were dug opposite Progreso by the Mexicans about three weeks ago. Probably three thousand shots were fired from back of the trenches during the two hours fighting on the bank of the Rio Grande, reports here said.

The two detachments of American cavalry of the command of Captain A. V. P. Anderson and Lieut. Ralph Tolbert, Jr., chased the Mexican band of seventy or eighty men to the river bank at Progreso. There, it is said, the Americans could not approach the river bank because of lively fire from back of the trenches on the Mexican side.

Washington, Sept. 25.—Successive raids by Zapata forces on the Vera Cruz-Mexico City railway have aggravated famine conditions in the capital, according to state department advices dated September 22 and received today. The city water system has also been partially disabled and the shortage of water is becoming serious. Fuel oil, on the supply of which light and power plants depend for operation is virtually exhausted, there being only enough to last until Monday.

A train loaded with fuel oil which was sent out from Vera Cruz was destroyed by Zapata troops within fifty miles of the capital, and trains sent out recently have been compelled to return on account of raids.

A consular report from Nogales says that Carranza forces under General Calles have withdrawn entirely from that part of the state and that Villa troops under General Maytorena are holding the Cananea railway.

San Antonio, Tex., Sept. 24.—General Raoul Madero, an officer of Villa's staff, was arrested today by American soldiers near Marfa, Tex., Major General Funston, commanding the American border troops, received the report from Marfa today. With Madero were eight companions, all supposed to be officers of the Villa forces, and they were also arrested. They were taken in custody when they crossed the Rio Grande to the American side.

## CANNOT BELIEVE THE REPORTS FROM BULGARIA

Petrograd, Sept. 24.—M. Guchkoff, president of the Slav conference of Moscow, has sent a telegram to Dr. Danef, former Bulgarian premier, M. Gostkov, former Bulgarian minister to Berlin, and other statesmen of Bulgaria which says that if Bulgaria joins with Germany her action will be a crime unparalleled in the history of nations.

## COUNTY MUST PAY INCREASE

Tax Commission Overrules Objection by Buncombe Delegation—Five Per Cent Increase Must Be Paid.

## INCREASES TAXES BY NEARLY \$10,000

Also Increases Valuation Nearly \$1,000,000—City Will Not Accept Ruling—Not Obligated, Attorney Says.

in a telegram received yesterday afternoon by County Auditor E. M. Lyda, from A. J. Maxwell, clerk of the state tax commission at Raleigh, it was stated that the commission had overruled the objections entered by the delegation from Buncombe county which appeared before the state commission Wednesday afternoon, and that the valuation of Buncombe county property would be increased five per cent as first ordered.

This message was a great surprise to the county authorities, for they believed that they had made a favorable impression on the members of the commission by their plea as to why Buncombe county should not be forced to pay this increase of five per cent in the tax rate of the county.

According to figures compiled by Auditor Lyda, the action of the state tax commission in enforcing their ruling to raise the tax rate in Buncombe county five per cent will increase the taxes of the state and county for Buncombe county \$9,396.47 and will raise the valuation \$968,705.

Auditor Lyda thinks that he will be able to arrange the new increase on his books so that they will be ready by the first Monday in October, as usual.

City Not Obligated? When seen this afternoon Corporation Counsel Marcus Erwin stated that he still stood by the opinion he had delivered to the city commissioners several weeks ago regarding the increased tax rate, which was to the effect that the city was not obligated to pay the increase. Mr. Erwin stated that while he believed that the city would not have to pay the additional tax although he thought the county would. He does not believe that the increase is fair and just and like many other citizens of the county and city strenuously objects to the raise in the tax rate by the corporation commission.

The increase in the city taxes, if the higher rate were paid by the taxpayers would be about \$10,000 a year Mr. Erwin stated.

## JUDGE PASSES ON OUTRAGEOUS CASE

In Which Pretty Rougemont Girl Ran Away With Young Mulatto.

(By W. T. Bost). Raleigh, Sept. 25.—In Wake county court, Judge Peebles sentenced Sidney Bass, mulatto boy of eighteen or twenty years to a term of two years on the county roads, and Bedie Hobbit, the pretty Rougemont girl, his associate in crime, was allowed to go home with her father and mother, pay half the costs, go under a bond of \$100 for good behavior and return every six months to the court to show her conduct.

"In all my experience on the bench I have never had any such case," Judge Peebles said after passing sentence on Bass. "It was a most outrageous thing." He said, "but I think the white girl was more to blame than the negro boy." Solicitor Norris told the court that he had not been able to bring out half the disgusting circumstances in the case and that if the girl's father had testified in court what he told the solicitor the negro could have been convicted of greater crime.

"I am afraid to give him any more sentence, afraid it won't stick," the judge said. The courts do not appear to be certain on the points of punishment for such an offense. The girl went home with her parents promising to start over. When she signed her name to the bond it was learned that she is a well educated girl, was preparing to enter college and that she writes a beautiful vertical hand. These confounded the court all the more. She attempted no explanation of her conduct in running off with the yellow boy.

## G. A. R. GATHERS IN WASHINGTON

The Advance Guard of the Fast Fading Union Host Arrives in Capital For 49th Annual Encampment.

## WASHINGTON ABLAZE WITH PATRIOTIC COLOR

Will Probably Be the Last Grand Army Re-Union in That City—Headquarters in Old Census Building.

Washington, Sept. 25.—Ablaze with patriotic color, Washington welcomes today the advance guard of the fast-fading union host coming to participate in the forty-ninth annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic which begins here Monday.

Thousands of veterans already have arrived and every train brings hundreds more who fifty years ago marched under the eyes of Grant and in the wake of Sherman in the greatest military review the world had ever seen.

Extraordinary preparations have been made for the encampment because it probably will be the last Grand Army reunion in the capital. To this end plans for entertaining a hundred thousand visitors have been perfected and the event already gives promise of revalling inauguration ceremonies in interest and display.

Flags are flying from a thousand staffs. The Capitol, White House and every government building are draped with the national colors. The streets of the city are radiant lanes of red, white and blue as the throngs of guests and visitors arrive. David J. Palmer, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army and General Nelson A. Miles, retired, who will act as Grand Marshal of the commemorative review, are among the early arrivals.

With them have come scores of men who took conspicuous part in the war. Although the grand review will be the most spectacular feature of the reunion, many interesting events are on the program for the celebration which will continue until October 3. The war and navy departments have co-operated with the Citizens' committee to aid in entertainment of the veterans. Exhibition drills of regular troops are to be held on the Washington Monument grounds. Secretary Daniels has arranged to have submarines, torpedo boats and other small naval craft unknown in Civil War days here for inspection. There will be hydroplane and aeroplane flights and other features to illustrate the advance in warfare during fifty years.

The Capitol already has taken on the martial air that is to pervade it for the coming week. The streets are enlivened with veterans and members of organizations allied with the Grand Army which also will hold re-unions. Among them are Sons of Veterans, the Loyal Legion, The Medal of Honor Legion, the Volunteer Officers' association, the Naval Veterans, ex-Prisoners of War, the Society of the Army of the Potomac, the Society of the Army of the Cumberland, Society of the Army of the Ohio, Women's Relief Corps, Ladies of the G. A. R. and Daughters of Veterans.

Upon their arrival today the veterans discovered that the reunion this year was not to be a tented affair. Heretofore headquarters of the various Grand Army departments at annual reunions have been established in tents, but headquarters this time have been provided in the old Census bureau building which has been adequately adapted for the purpose.

The main floor has been divided into two huge auditoriums in one of which will be held business sessions of the encampment and a general reception Tuesday night to be attended by President Wilson. The other has been set aside for camp fires and naval displays which will be continuous features of the reunion.

On the second floor of the structure rooms have been provided for headquarters of the various corps for the military and semi-military organizations allied with it. Rest rooms, restaurants and a hospital also are provided.

With the veterans from many states who wore the Blue have come wearers of the Gray, specially invited for the occasion. Staff Officers of the Confederate Veterans' union were extended invitations and arrangements for their entertainment have been made. This action was taken at the suggestion of officials of the Grand Army, the meeting of the Blue and the Gray on the Gettysburg Battlefield two years ago having given testimony of the amicable relationship existing between the two organizations. Invitations also have been extended to governors of all states and members of their staffs, as well as to a large number of distinguished officers of the United States, including members of the cabinet, who will review the soldiers with the President, and members of Congress.

Chicago, Sept. 25.—Tyros Cobb is leading the American league in four department—batting, base-stealing, run-getting and in total base hitting. Averages published here today show that the Detroit star has dethroned his teammate, Sam Crawford, for total base hitting honors and leads with 261.

In base stealing Cobb has established a record, having pilfered 89 sacks—one above the record of Milan of Washington in 1912. Cobb's batting average of last week, .377, remains unchanged.

Olding of Philadelphia, leads in home runs with six, and Burns of Detroit and Fournier of Chicago, are tied for second place with five each. In batting Fournier has jumped from eighth place to a tie with his teammate, Eddie Collins. Both are hitting a .322 clip. Following them are speaker of Boston, with .320, McInnis of Philadelphia with .316 and Jackson of Chicago with .311.

Detroit leads in club batting with 265, and Boston of second with 261. Ruth of Boston, with 17 won and six lost, leads American league pitchers. Foston of Boston with 19 won and seven lost, is second. Shore of Boston, with 15 games won and seven lost, is third.

## COBB LEADING IN FOUR LINES

Detroit Star Holds American League Honors in Bating Base Stealing, Scoring and Total Base Hitting.

## ESTABLISHES RECORD IN STEALING BASES

Fall of Cravath Marks Week In National; Tied in Scores by Doyle; Retains Only Home Run Honors.

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The fall of Cravath, the heavy hitting outfielder of the Philadelphia, marked the week's work among National league batsmen. Cravath hitherto had been the leading home run hitter, first in total bases and in runs scored. He has been tied for total runs honors by Doyle of New York and passed for total bases by Doyle and Hinchman of Pittsburgh, retaining only his home run honors.

The captain of the Giants has increased his lead over National league batsmen and now has an average of .321. Ludens of Philadelphia is second with .319.

Cincinnati leads in club batting with 256 and St. Louis is second with 253. In run getting Ooyle of New York and Cravath of Philadelphia each have 81. Dwyell and Hinchman of Pittsburgh, are tied for first place in total bases with 246.

Max Carey of Pittsburgh is still the leading base stealer of the National with a total of 37. Fones of Cincinnati, Alexander of Philadelphia, and Mannaux of Pittsburgh, remain the leading National league pitchers.

Federal League. Knuff of Brooklyn with an average of .344 leads Federal league batters, Magee of Brooklyn, with .335 is second. Knuff leads in stolen bases with 52; and Corton of St. Louis is leading in runs scored with 92.

Chase of Buffalo, leads in total bases with 255 and in home runs with 17. Brooklyn with 268 leads in club batting. McConnell, with 23 games won and nine lost, leads the Federal league pitchers.

## CITIZENS PLAN HIGH SCHOOL AT CRAGGY

Mass Meeting Last Night Discussed \$10,000 Bond Issue For Building.

The residents of the Craggy section have inaugurated a campaign for voting \$10,000 in bonds to build a state high school structure in the school district in which are located the schools of Mount Carmel, Burnham Heights and Macedonia. At a mass meeting held at Craggy last night, there were present the school committeemen, teachers and citizens from all the schools in the district and much enthusiasm was manifested in the movement.

A committee was appointed to circulate a petition to be presented to the county commissioners asking them to call an election so that the voters may decide the question at the polls. T. Roberts of Craggy stated this morning that little opposition is anticipated to the efforts to have the bonds endorsed by the voters and it is expected that an election will be held in about six weeks.