

## FATE OF SERBIA MAY BE DECIDED IN FEW HOURS

### Serbian and Entente Troops In Southwest Are In Imminent Danger of An Outflanking Movement.

### CONSULAR OFFICIALS LEAVING MONASTIR

### Diplomatic Situation In Near-East More Favorable to Allies—Greece Responding to Pressure.

London, Nov. 17.—The fate of the Serbians may be a matter of only a few hours. Monastir, in southwest Serbia is reported to be in such a perilous position that consular officials have departed from the various conflicting reports the following may be deduced as facts:

The Bulgarians have taken Krusevo and are six miles west of Perlip. Thus the Southern Serbian army and its French and British allies are confronted imminently with the peril of an outflanking movement.

Tetovo is in the hands of the Bulgarian. The fate of the Serbians holding the Babuna pass is more obscure. One report says that the pass has been forced. It seems certain that the Serbians there are at least threatened so seriously that the position may soon become untenable.

With Krusevo and Babuna in the hands of the invaders the fate of Perlip is sealed and the road to Monastir is open.

While the military situation is darker from the standpoint of the entente allies, the diplomatic phase of the near-eastern venture appears to be somewhat more favorable. Greece is giving some indication of seeking a solution of the problem that would be presented in case any of the entente troops should have to take refuge on Greek territory.

It is clear that the allies are bringing considerable pressure to bear on the Greek government, not the least of which is England's detention in home ports of a fleet of great merchantmen. Greek shipping is making enormous profits out of the war and even a temporary check of traffic would mean a great loss.

On the eastern front interest centers in the attempt of the Austro-Germans to recross the Stry river, where the Austro-Germans claim an important success. Petrograd reports merely admit that the Austro-German forces have occupied the village of Podgacze, about five miles from the river and a slight advance east of that place.

It is asserted that the advantage gained by the Teutonic troops was due to the arrival of reinforcements from other sections of the eastern front and to heavy artillery brought up by rail.

From conflicting reports it may be seen that the eastern bank of the Stry river is held by the Russians while the battle at the crossing is yet undecided.

Reports from the western front indicate that military activities there are limited to general artillery exchanges.

leave my record in the hands of my countrymen. The prime minister said that Mr. Churchill had said one or two things he would better not have said, and had necessarily and naturally left unsaid some things which would have to be said. I am content to wait. It is not fitting to make personal explanations affecting national interests when my country is in the midst of a great war."

## METHODIST CONFERENCE OPENS AT REIDSVILLE

### Bishop Lambuth Is Presiding and 258 Pastors Are Present

—J. A. Nichols There.

Special to The Gazette-News. Reidsville, Nov. 17.—The initial service of the Western North Carolina Methodist conference was held at 7:30 o'clock Tuesday night. Dr. W. W. Pinson, secretary of the mission board, Nashville, Tenn., addressed the conference on the great need of larger vision for missions and stressed church preparedness to stem the tide of worldliness in this most solemn hour since Calvary. Bishop Lambuth made his wonderful address on establishment of Congo mission and made a profound impression on the congregation, giving illustrations of God's leading the Southern Methodist church to Africa.

All committees held first meetings Tuesday afternoon for preparatory work and examination of candidates and men on trial. A large number of men are seeking admission. Bishop Lambuth addressed the mission board at 3 o'clock Tuesday morning more interest in collecting mission assessments. Board will recommend to the conference one by one canvass endeavoring to get larger contributions. J. A. Nichols of Asheville, a member of the board is present.

The conference convened this morning at 9:30. Bishop Lambuth presiding, W. L. Sherrill of Charlotte for the twenty-second time elected secretary. At roll call nearly all of the 258 pastors responded. W. W. Pinson and pastors of Reidsville were introduced to the conference, also George Stewart.

## FAVORS ABOLITION OF COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

### Advisory Council Finds His Work Is Duplicated

### Reserve Board.

Washington, Nov. 17.—Abolition of the office of comptroller of the currency, which has direct supervision over the operation of all national banks, has been proposed to the federal reserve board by the advisory council, created by the federal reserve act to advise the board on matters of importance to the banking system. The recommendation was adopted at a meeting attended by nine of the twelve members of the council and the vote is understood to have been unanimous. Later it was discussed briefly by the board itself, though no action was taken.

The council recently was asked to submit to the board suggestions as to legislation to be urged upon congress at the coming session and to this task the meeting was largely devoted. It is said the members agreed that the office of the comptroller had been made unnecessary by the establishment of the reserve system, and that there was bound to be duplication of work since examinations of national banks, one of the principal functions of the comptroller's office, may be conducted by agents of the reserve board at the request of a reserve bank. An alternative proposal was made that if the office be not abolished, the examination of member banks, including national banks, should be made in the future, exclusively by examiners of the board. There have been reports for some time that an effort would be made to abolish the office of comptroller or to curtail its power, and it is understood that several members of the board would not be opposed to such a change.

## MME. SEMBRICH ILL; CANCELS ENGAGEMENTS

New York, Nov. 17.—Because of ill health, Mrs. Marcella Sembrich has resigned as president of the Polish Relief committee, and as vice president of the Polish Victims relief. All her operative engagements are cancelled until the beginning of January. Madame Sembrich is suffering from nervous breakdown, and bronchial affection. Her physician has advised her to rest.

## WILL ASK AUSTRIA ABOUT THE ANCONA

### Ambassador Penfield Will Seek Details From Vienna Foreign Office.

Washington, Nov. 17.—Ambassador Penfield, at Vienna, has been instructed by cable to ask the Austro-Hungarian foreign office for a statement in detail of the circumstances of the torpedoing of the Italian liner Ancona in the Mediterranean last week, with a loss of several American lives. This action was taken upon the presentation by the Austrian embassy here to Secretary Lansing of a communication from the Vienna admiralty stating that an Austrian submarine sank the Ancona, and asserting that ample time for the passengers and crew to escape was afforded. Until responsibility for the action of the submarine, which it had been reported, was of German nationality, was thus officially assumed, the American government withheld formal inquiry at Vienna.

Ambassador Penfield has been instructed to discuss the case orally with officials of the Austrian government to obtain details, supplementary to those transmitted by the embassy. The undetermined points on which the American government now seeks information are:

Did the submarine fire a warning shot? Did the submarine cease firing when the Ancona came to a stop? How much time was given passengers and crew to get into the lifeboats? What were the activities of the submarine while the ship was unloading its passengers? Was a torpedo fired while any of the passengers were aboard?

## BIDS FOR TWO WARSHIPS WILL BE OPENED TODAY

### Superdreadnaughts of 32,000 Tons Each—Will Cost About \$15,000,000 Each.

Washington, Nov. 17.—Bids will be opened at the navy department today for two 32,000-ton superdreadnaughts authorized by the last congress and known as Nos. 43 and 44. The act limited the cost of these ships to approximately \$15,000,000 each, about half of which will go for hulls and machinery under contracts let on today's bids.

The two new fighting craft will closely resemble in design the California, now building at the New York navy yard, but they will be built on plans prepared after secret experiments to develop means of lessening danger of submarine attack. These experiments are continuing and are said to be meeting with marked success.

Navy officers anticipate that today's bid will show a considerable increase in prices, as the cost of nearly every kind of material that enters into battleship construction has advanced since the European war began.

## POST-OFFICE CLERKS AND CARRIERS STRIKE

### Employees of Fairmount Post-office, Constituting Nearly Entire Force, Walk Out.

Fairmount, W. Va., Nov. 17.—Twenty-five clerks and carriers in the postoffice here, practically the entire force, struck this morning as a protest, it is said, against the discharge of W. H. Brand, assistant postmaster, and three other employees.

Postmaster Charles H. Manley found on his desk today, a large piece of cardboard on which was written, "Your clerks and carriers have quit. Here are your keys."

Brand, who has been connected with the postoffice for 17 years was discharged recently on the charge of giving assistance to participants in civil service examinations.

## SERBIANS FAIL TO STAY ADVANCE OF TEUTONS

Berlin, Nov. 16, via London, Nov. 17.—The attempt of the Serbians to check the Austro-German drive has again failed according to announcements made by the German war office. More than 2,500 Serbians were captured yesterday.

## INSIST ON FULL ENEMY REPORTS

### German Military Authorities Instruct Censors Not to Abridge War Statements of Entente Officers.

### PUBLICATION OF ALL ENEMY CLAIMS URGED

### Censors' Custom of Eliminating Details Unfavorable to Germany Not Approved by Army Staff.

Washington, Nov. 17.—Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, announced today that he had been informed that German censors had been instructed to insist on the publication in full in Germany of war reports issued by the allies. The announcement by the embassy quoting the instructions to the chief of the bureau of censorship said: "Cases have occurred where such items of news as are unfavorable to us are eliminated at the order of the censor. The latter procedure does not correspond with the opinion of German army headquarters that unabridged publication of the enemy reports is required at all times, exceptions only to be made with papers in cases where financial reasons or technical difficulties demand consideration."

"We have less reason to fear the unabridged publication of reports circulated by the enemy as our own war reports are strictly according to truth, giving everybody an opportunity of forming a connected conception of the situation."

"The fear that official reports published by the enemy might sometimes cause uneasiness is counterbalanced by the consideration that facts can never be concealed for any length of time and that lies are always recognized as such in the end."

## DECLARES CONSTANTINE MEDITATES TREACHERY

### Russian Correspondent Thinks Friendly Neutrality Is Masking War Preparation.

Petrograd, Nov. 16, via London, Nov. 17.—Analyzing the conduct of King Constantine of Greece, the Novoe Vremya arrives at the conclusion that "his friendly neutrality is nothing more than open preparation for a future attack on the allied troops which landed at Saloniki."

The war correspondent of the Novoe Vremya warns the Russians against over-confidence because of the recent Russian successes on the eastern front and says the Russians are still confronted by a strong enemy, who with superb technical equipment, are far from being crushed.

"The enemy assigns a maxim gun to every ten men," the correspondent says, "and the artillery is abundantly supplied with ammunition."

## ENTHUSIASM OF PEOPLE UNPARALLELED IN JAPAN

Kioto, Japan, Nov. 17.—The people of the empire are feasting and rejoicing over the coronation to an extent hitherto unknown in the history of Japan. The streets of Japan last night were filled with people parading, dancing and singing. Men, girls and children, wearing picturesque costumes and carrying paper lanterns beat ancient drums and sang.

The scenes resembled those which can be witnessed during carnivals in New Orleans, Paris and Nice, except that they had an oriental setting.

Foreigners are struck with the friendly spirit of the celebrating people. In spite of the gaiety there are no signs of public intoxication and no disorders.

## KITCHENER STARTS TA GALLIOLI PENINSULA

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## FAY DOES NOT PLEAD GUILTY

### Alleged Bomb Plotter Fails to Make Statement to Prosecution or Add to Confession as Was Expected.

### DEMURRERS ENTERED FOR FAY AND SCHOLZ

### Fay Refused to Turn State's Evidence When Prosecution Would Not Promise Him Short Sentence.

New York, Nov. 17.—When the case of the five men indicted for the alleged bomb conspiracy was called in federal court yesterday demurrers were filed for two of the defendants—Robert Fay and Walter Scholz. In the demurrers it is contended that the indictments against Fay and Scholz do not state offenses under the United States laws in that the munitions ships on which the bombs were to be placed, according to the charge, would have been blown up on the high seas.

Counsel for Robert Kienzie, Max Brietung and Engelbert Bronkhorst, the others indicted, stood on the plea of not guilty entered at the first arraignment.

Fay was taken before Government Attorney Knox again presumably to continue the statement which he began Monday. A few minutes later, however, he was taken to the Tombs and it was announced that he would not add to the confession he is reported to have made or make any other statement.

When Fay agreed to make a statement for the government attorney and plead guilty to the indictment against him he thought he might escape with a sentence of one or at most two years. Mr. Knox informed him, however, that a plea of guilty to the indictment carried with it a sentence of 12 years imprisonment.

Mr. Knox said that so far as the government was concerned, the matter would not be further discussed with Fay.

## PRESIDENT TO WORK ALL THE WEEK ON MESSAGE

### Discusses Some of the Most Important Features With the Cabinet—The Measures.

Washington, Nov. 16.—President Wilson plans to work all week on his message to congress which he expects to finish before Thanksgiving day. He discussed some of the features of the message with the cabinet today. National defense will be the principal subject discussed in the message, which also is expected to take up recommendations for raising additional revenue.

Conservation measures which failed of passage at the last session of congress and the Philippine bill will again

## DISCOVERED IN ATLANTA AMPUTATED

Atlanta, Nov. 16.—The police investigating the finding of a woman's leg in the city dumping ground yesterday cleared up the case today when a surgeon identified the member.

On November 12 a woman was run down by a trolley car and her leg was so badly mangled that an amputation was considered necessary. The surgeon who performed the operation gave the amputated limb to the husband of the woman to bury. It was not buried and found its way to the city dumping ground.

The story told by negroes of hearing a woman scream on the night of November 7 were discounted by the police. Material picked up and at first believed to be parts of a human body proved not to be human flesh.

## LOUISIANA FAVORS THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN

## BULGARS LEAVE CERNA DISTRICT

### Region Held By French, Following Long Fierce Battle, Says Report—Serbian Babuna Position Turned.

### SECOND BULGARIAN COLUMN ADVANCING

### Many Bulgarians Deserting, According to French Reports—Macedonian Situation Develops Rapidly.

Saloniki, Greece, Nov. 16, via Paris, Nov. 17.—In addition to the Bulgarian column which turned the Serbian position at Babuna pass, a second Bulgarian force is advancing on Kostovo from Kalkandelen. The Bulgarians are reported to have withdrawn from the Cerna river region, which is held by the French. French reports say many are deserting from the Bulgarian army.

The battle on the Cerna was waged on the left bank of the river. Two or three Bulgarian divisions were engaged, and desperate attempts were made by the Bulgars to pierce the French center. The engagement proceeded with furious intensity for 36 hours, after which the Bulgarians were beaten back along the entire line.

The situation in Macedonia is developing rapidly. Large reinforcements have been brought in by the Bulgarians who are making renewed efforts to force the Babuna pass.

The Serbians are still holding out there but the move threatens Perlepe and Monastir. Many inhabitants of Monastir are preparing to leave their homes. Members of the diplomatic corps have changed their plans and intend to proceed to Scutari, Albania, instead of to Monastir.

Saloniki, Nov. 14.—(Via Paris, Nov. 16.)—Old Serbia is lost and New Serbia is in a precarious condition in the opinion of M. Jacobschiff secretary of the Russian legation in Greece. M. Jacobschiff arrived here today from Mitrovitza, western Serbia, coming by way of Albania.

The secretary of the legation asserted that the Serbians forces at Babuna pass could not hold out much longer and that their only hope was that the Serbians forces concentrated at Mitrovitza could prepare to be strong enough to take the offensive and advance through Tetovo toward Monastir.

M. Jacobschiff said he feared the legation staff which was preparing to leave Mitrovitza for Monastir would find that the Bulgarians had already occupied Monastir.

"The morale of the Serbian troops is splendid," said the Russian official. "Half trained recruits marched into battle singing like veterans."

"The aged King Peter is fighting in the trenches clad as a private. He is seeking death, saying 'When I am killed, you can flee or surrender.'"

"Famine and misery prevail among the Serbians. There is no bread at Mitrovitza. The people are reduced to eating harkots."

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### Saxonia Passengers Tell of Disturbance by Over 800 Men at Liverpool.

New York, Nov. 17.—Passengers who arrived yesterday on the Cunard liner Saxonia reported that considerable rioting occurred at the Liverpool dock, when 123 men who had booked passage in second cabin and more than 700 others, chiefly Irishmen of military age, were refused passage, after the liner's crew had threatened to strike if any British citizen of military age was allowed to sail. The ship's officers said there were a number of Englishmen and Welshmen in the crowd.

When the 123 men started to board the liner, it was noticed that most of them were young men. The crew then held a meeting and presented a statement to the first officer of the liner declaring they would walk off the ship if any man of military age was permitted to take passage.

At the same time a crowd of more than 700 men, all said to be of military age, reached the dock and sought to obtain passage in the steamer. Officials of the line agreed to the demands of the crew. Then the passengers saw the crowd of more than 800 men make a great disturbance and it required considerable force to drive them away.

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## A SERVICE OF UNUSUAL POWER AT TABERNACLE

### Immense Congregation Was Especially Receptive to Influence of Music and Sermon Last Night.

### WAYNESVILLE-CANTON DAY TO BE OBSERVED

### Sermon to Mothers and Daughters This Afternoon—Special Train For Brevard-Hendersonville Today.

Last night will be long remembered by those who attended the tabernacle meeting as one of the occasions during the great revival when the audience seemed especially receptive to the music and to the message delivered by Rev. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman. Under the leadership of Charles M. Alexander the song service reached an unusual pitch of religious fervor and the sermon on the subject, "Almost Hopeless," had a sorrowful and impressive eloquence as presented by the noted evangelist. Seventy men and women last night made decisions for Christ.

The beautiful "Ivory Palace" was sung again by Albert Brown and E. L. Wolchlag rendered "Beulah Land." Dr. Chapman impressed upon his large audience that the Spirit of God was speaking through the music, by the voices of friends who plead with them for consecration of their lives and through the sermon urging them to surrender before it is too late.

Many delegations occupied reserved seats, among them being a company of Charlotte residents who arrived yesterday afternoon by special train. Tonight the Buncombe County Medical society will be represented among the bodies having reservations for the service. The physicians will meet at the Candy Kitchen at 7 o'clock.

Tomorrow special arrangements will be carried out to accommodate the large crowds expected from Waynesville and Canton. The Southern Railway has announced special round trip fares from these places and intervening points and an extra train will be operated from Asheville to Waynesville after the evening service.

Rev. Dr. Chapman announced last night that as this is the last week of the revival he will on Saturday conduct three services. Large delegations from Brevard and Hendersonville are expected today.

This Afternoon. The sermon for this afternoon follows: "Her children rise up and call her blessed."—Proverbs 31:28.

The Bible is woman's glory and always exalts her. You have but to journey around the world to prove the statement that wherever God's Word has been taught and its teaching received women have not only been saved, but have been given their rightful position, which has been ordained of God for them from the beginning. Without the Bible woman is hopeless. In the estimation of men in unchristian lands she ranks with the beasts of the field, and many a time in passing through heathen countries I have seen her hitched to a plow in the stead of a horse, or I have seen her drawing a wagon loaded far too heavily for her, but when God's Word is found working these things are impossible.

I can quite understand how a man would not be a Christian. He is caught by the fascination of the world, ensnared by the devil, is in bondage before he realizes it and feels his case to be well nigh hopeless, but I cannot understand how it is possible for a woman, who owns all that she has and is, to Christ, to reject Him.

The most wonderful pictures of women are presented in the Bible. For example, Jochabed, the mother of Moses. She who with her own hands fashioned the little ark, pitched it within and without with pitch, placed

(Continued on Page Five).

## SUBMINE SHELLED BY AN ITALIAN BATTLESHIP

Rome, Nov. 16, via Paris, Nov. 17.—The Italian cruiser Piemonte fired several shells at a submarine which came out of attack while the steamer was bombarding Dedeagatch last Friday, says a Saloniki dispatch to the Messenger. It was believed that the submarine was hit.