

The Asheville Gazette-News.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 9, 1915.

WEATHER FORECAST.

FAIR.

PRICE 2 CENTS—On Trains 5 Cts.

GERMAN FORCE NOW NEAR THE GREEK BORDER

Believed Greece Cannot Much Longer Postpone Decision as to Requests Made by Entente Powers.

GERMANY INTERESTED IN CONSTANTINE'S TALK

Field That Greece King Has Given Good Reasons for Attitude of His Country Toward Allied Nations.

London, Dec. 9.—German troops are reported to have arrived at the Greek border. With the Anglo-French forces forming almost within Greek territory it is believed here that Greece cannot much longer postpone a more definite revelation of the stand she expects to take should the arena of hostilities be transferred to her soil.

Colonial Phallis of the Greek army is now conferring with the commanders of the entente army, but Paris papers express the fear that he has not been authorized to take full steps necessary to safeguard the interests of the entente troops.

The interview which King Constantine of Greece, gave to the Associated Press is attracting a great deal of attention in Germany, where the opinion is general that he has given good reasons for the justification of the attitude of his country.

The plans of the French and British forces in the Balkans is still a mystery. The continued sending of reinforcements at Saloniki lends color to the theory that an aggressive campaign is contemplated. The German withdrawal of troops from advanced positions leads to the belief that for the present the occupation of Saloniki is a base of operations at a later time forms the extent of their determination.

The opening of the Hungarian parliament afforded an opportunity for the discussion of peace which was entirely negative. Premier Tisza spoke of Roumania's attitude with regret while expressing sympathy for the position in which Greece is placed.

With only three days left to complete the test of Lord Derby's plan of recruiting, enlistment officers are being overwhelmed with men who wish to volunteer under the group system.

Nothing of exceptional interest has occurred on the main fronts except in the east, where it is reported unofficially that Russian troops in Bessarabia are showing great activity.

French Trenches Taken.

Berlin, Dec. 9.—(Via London)—Capture of a French position more than 500 yards in length on Hill No. 141 north of Soanin in the Champagne district is announced by German army headquarters.

Vessels Sunk.

London, Dec. 9.—The Austrian announcement Tuesday that the French submarine Fresnel had been destroyed (Continued on page 2)

Declares It Is For The Allies To Propose Peace

Berlin, by Wireless, Dec. 9.—"The German proposals make peace proposals compatible with the dignity and safety of Germany, then we will always be ready to discuss peace," said Chancellor Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg of Germany in his address to the Reichstag today.

The chancellor made it clear that in his opinion it would be folly for Germany to declare, "cannot be the countries of our enemies the guilt and ignorance of our statesmen is entangled with the confusion of public opinion."

SUCCESS SEEN BY PRESIDENT

Mr. Wilson Tells Members of National Committee Democratic Party Is Sure to Win Next Fall.

REPUBLICANS HAVE BUT ONE ISSUE, HE SAYS

Declares Democrats' Constructive Work Has Started With Irresistible Movement, Can't Be Stopped.

Washington, Dec. 9.—President Wilson told members of the democratic national committee at a luncheon in the state dining room of the white house that the republicans had no issue for the next campaign except the tariff and that democracy was certain to win.

"Our constructive work has started an irresistible movement which cannot be stopped," he declared. "Anyone who tells you otherwise is talking through his hat."

Mr. Wilson said nothing to indicate whether he would again be a candidate for the presidency.

Throughout his entire talk, which dealt with subjects ranging from democratic chances of victory to features of the "isolated" life of a chief executive the president was informal. Taking his place at the head of the table he thrust his hands into his trouser pockets, cast aside what he termed his "dress parade" language, and talked freely and confidentially.

Democrats of all factions greeted his remarks enthusiastically. They left the white house in buoyant spirits declaring that his optimism had inspired them with new confidence. It was the first time committee members said that their body had been received as a whole in the white house. They expressed regret that the text of the president's speech would not be given out, as they regarded it as a significant statement.

At the outset the president said he wanted the members to feel that they were a part of a big family of which he was a member. He asked whether anyone present could suggest any campaign argument other than the tariff which the democratic opposition could advance, and they shook their heads. Nobody knows at this time, he added, what sort of a tariff measure must be framed to meet changing conditions resulting from the war.

Discussing parties and policies generally, the president insisted that the democratic view was that the majority should rule, while that of their opponents was that a "board of trustees" should act for the people.

Touching upon the Mexican problem he said this same majority rule should apply in Mexico as well as in this country, without regard to the wishes of persons residing in other countries who hold Mexican property. He expressed the belief that in due time peace would come in Mexico when the people were thoroughly tired of raising disturbances.

The president faced a united committee, leaders declared, rumors of threatened breaks between friends of Fred B. Lynch, the Minnesota committeeman, and Chairman William F. McCombs, having been promptly disposed of.

Mr. McCombs and most of the other committeemen left for their homes last night. The chairman will name the convention committee on arrangements this week and within a month it will hold its first meeting in St. Louis.

MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO U. S. APPOINTED

Washington, Dec. 9.—The first step toward the resumption of full diplomatic relations between the United States and Mexico was taken today in the appointment of Elisaeo Arredondo, General Carranza's confidential representative in Washington, as Mexican ambassador to the United States. The appointment of an American ambassador to the United States. The appointment of an American ambassador to Mexico—in all probability Henry F. Fletcher, at present ambassador to Chile—will be announced soon.

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CORRESPONDING STORY OF VILLA SEC. ELECTED

Walter N. Johnson of Wade Forest, Successor of Livingston Johnson Baptist Convention Election.

THREE BALLOTS WERE NECESSARY TO ELECT

Judson Centennial Movement Report Heard With Interest—\$87,000 of North Carolina's \$90,000 Is Raised.

Charlotte, Dec. 9.—The election of a dark horse, Rev. Walter N. Johnson, as corresponding secretary of the Baptist state convention, was the overshadowing event of a day of big things for that body yesterday.

When the messengers began to assemble Monday the talk was all Durham and Maury, with scattering support for Bradshaw. Nobody was expecting the red-headed church builder to make the speech he made Tuesday afternoon in the pastor's conference. But after the Wake Forest man set the preachers afire there was more to it, it was won on the third ballot.

In the same city where T. W. Bickett talked himself into the attorney generalship and perhaps into the executive mansion, Rev. W. N. Johnson, of Wake Forest, talked himself into the most conspicuous office within the gift of the Baptists of the state—the corresponding secretaryship. Perhaps if Mr. Johnson had had the faintest idea of what he was doing he might have conducted himself otherwise; but when he sat down after making an address on "Church Expansion" to the pastor's conference Monday night he had involuntarily started a movement that culminated in his election on the third ballot yesterday afternoon.

Ballooting began at 1:20 p. m. The first count was reported as follows: W. N. Johnson, 153; C. E. Madry, 25; R. A. McFarland 15; W. C. Barbour, 15; W. R. Bradshaw 55; J. A. Durham 1; A. E. Brown 1; Braxton Craig 1. On the second ballot Johnson's vote rose to 183, while the total number cast fell to 387 leaving him one short of a clear majority; and the third ballot became merely a formality.

Mr. Johnson is a native of North Carolina, although he has spent part of his active life in the ministry. He was born in Sampson county, but his prominence in the eyes of the Baptists of his native state has been gained since his return from Louisiana some four or five years ago. He came back to the state to accept perhaps the most difficult pastorate in the convention—that of Wake Forest church. Mr. Johnson has made a conspicuous success of his task. He has left a monument of a noble kind at the college in the shape of the most magnificent Baptist meeting house in the state.

Another notable event was the delightful address of Rev. Dr. B. D. Gray, of Atlanta, on home missions; and so was that of Rev. Dr. I. M. Mercer, of Thomasville, on woman's work.

As for the predicted fight over the method of electing the secretary, it proved a "gentle and joyous passage at arms" instead of the duel to the death that some had looked for. The brethren roared at each other, but gently as any sucking dove.

The women divided time with foreign missions. Woman's right in the church formed the basis of the Thomasville pastor's appeal. He called for recognition of the wonderful work already accomplished, coupled with the sympathetic co-operation which is only their just due.

The Judson centennial movement report was heard immediately after the woman's work. It showed \$87,000 of North Carolina's \$90,000 raised, with five months to complete the work.

The discussion on foreign missions ended the day's business. Rev. Dr. J. P. Love, corresponding secretary of the foreign mission board of the southern Baptist convention, was the official speaker. He is always heard with interest, not on account of the cause he represents only, but also because he is a native North Carolinian. The report was also discussed by Rev. C. C. Davis, pastor of the East Durham Baptist church. The presiding officer yielded for the order to Rev. J. Clyde Turner, of Greensboro, North Carolina member of the foreign mission board.

Rev. Baylus Cade, representative of the old school of representative government, collided with the spirit of pure democracy in the Baptist state convention yesterday and came out decidedly worsted. The question was whether to entrust the nomination of a committee, or to proceed with the election on the floor of the convention. The committee plan is the historic one, but it is a thing of the past now; for the convention preferred the direct vote of the people.

The principal champion of direct government was Rev. R. G. Kendrick, pastor of Forest Avenue Baptist church, of Greensboro, but he had (Continued on Page Two).

STORY OF VILLA REVERSES TOLD

Detailed Account of Defeat in Sonora Campaign Given by Officer Formerly in Villa's Command.

TELLS HOW SEVERELY VILLA ARMY SUFFERED

Rebel Leader Persisted in Attacking Agua Prieta in Spite of Advice of Generals to the Contrary.

El Paso, Dec. 9.—A detailed account of the campaign in Sonora of the Villa army in which it suffered severe reverses was given today by an officer whose name is withheld. The officer declared that Villa lost 200 men killed the first day of the battle of Agua Prieta and that in the battle of Campana mountain, near Hermosillo he lost three battalions.

"When we started from Juarez toward Sonora," said the officer, "the column was composed of 11,000 men with 40 heavy guns and several machine guns."

"General Villa announced his intention of attacking Agua Prieta. General Alberto Carranza advised Villa to pass Agua Prieta, detaching a small cavalry force to draw General Calles into the open and to proceed in the vicinity of Hermosillo, which town was defended only by 3000 men under General Dieguez."

"Villa declared he was tired of being taught by everybody and ordered the attack on Agua Prieta. The first day of the attack the Villa infantry was repulsed with 200 killed, and 7000 grenades were exploded without great damage to the Carranza forces."

"Villa with 3000 men went to Nogales, from Nogales to Hermosillo, and was joined by General Urbalejo with 500 Yaqui Indians."

"General Dieguez, the Carranza commander at Hermosillo, was entrenched on the heights surrounding the village of Seris in the southern part of Hermosillo, just across the Sonora river and on the Campana mountain commanding the Hermosillo valley."

"Villa approached from the north and distributed his army about undefended places opposite the positions dominated by the Campana mountain, on Urbalejo's advance."

"The battle began at dawn. Villa ordered General Jose Heron Gonzalez, chief of the Villa infantry, to charge the Campana mountain and take it before sunset. Gonzalez said his men were tired and hungry and wanted to wait until night. Villa repeated his order angrily."

JUDGE LINDSEY SPEAKS TO PEACE ADVOCATES

Compares Militaristic Element to "Third Degree Policeman" in Speech on Ship.

New York, Dec. 9.—A wireless statement from the liner Oscar II, signed and prepared by Henry Ford, was received here today. It gave the summary, in which he declared the spirit of love would be more effective in international politics than military force.

Judge Lindsey told of his experiences during 16 years on the bench, drawing the conclusion that criminals are more responsive to trust than to shackles and force. He argued against preparedness, basing the point of his contention on the assertion that fire arms are unknown in the reform prison camp in Colorado, except when needed to protect the convicts from persons living near the camps.

Bulgars Driven Back

Paris, Dec. 9.—The French war office report concerning hostilities in the Orient (Serbia) recites the driving back of the Bulgarians, who attacked at Demirkapou on the Yadar river on December 5.

THE LARGEST
Advertisement appearing in The Gazette-News today is that of
L. BLONBERG
ON PAGE EIGHT
CALLING ATTENTION TO
CUT PRICES ON TOYS
AND DOLLS.

LIFE INSURANCE HEADS CONVENTION

Ninth Annual Celebration of Association of Life Insurance Presidents Is Now In Session.

DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT OF CITY COMMUNITIES

Part Life Insurance Funds Play in General Development of the Country is Also Considered.

New York, Dec. 9.—The ninth annual convention of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents met in New York today for three days' discussion of such subjects as the development of city communities, farming activities, and of railroad facilities, and the part which life insurance investment funds play in all three. "Policy Reserve Investments in Relation to Economic Progress," was the broad general topic, and federal officials and transportation and agricultural experts were invited to join with the life insurance men in discussing ways and means to still further advance this progress.

The chairman of the convention, William D. Wyman, president of the Berkshire Life Insurance company, of Littlefield, Mass., reported that the assets of life insurance companies of the country had practically doubled in the last ten years, and said this was characteristic of the ability of the American people to amass large funds rapidly and without much ado.

The assets now amount to nearly five billion dollars, said Mr. Wyman, and by investment in city and farm real estate, and in the bonds of railroads, states, counties, and municipalities and school districts, they were advancing the economic progress of the country. He stated that the life insurance companies, as a class, are now the largest holders of farm mortgages in the United States, having outdistanced banks. The farm mortgage loans made by the life insurance companies are largely in the west and south. As against a total of less than one million dollars in all the eastern and middle Atlantic states, those in the northwestern states alone amounted to \$284,000,000.

"While the assets of American life insurance companies have doubled in the last ten years, the amount loaned by them on real estate has increased more than two and a half times," said Mr. Wyman. "Of the assets held by life insurance companies at the end of last year, over \$1,700,000,000 were invested in real estate mortgages. Statistics which have just been collected by the association show a separation of these investments between farm loans and other kinds of real estate securities, for 148 out of the 250 life insurance companies in the United States. These 148 companies had 95 1/2 per cent of all real estate mortgages held by American life insurance companies."

"These reports show that \$655,000,000, or 39.03 per cent were at the end of 1914 invested by these 148 companies in farm loans; \$992,480,000 or 59.24 per cent were invested in other real estate securities in the United States; while the balance of \$28,971,000, or 1.73 per cent were invested in real estate securities of other countries, chiefly in Canada. As the value of farm lands and improvements, according to estimates of the United States census bureau, is only a little over 20 per cent of the total value of all real property in this country, it appears that life insurance companies have shown a marked preference for farm loans as compared with city and village loans."

"We are hearing much today of the rural credit problem and are being told that farmers in some sections of the country are often compelled to pay exorbitant interest rates," he continued. "If this be true, we must look for its cause outside of the rates which life insurance companies are receiving upon their farm mortgage investments, because we find the average rate on all our farm loans to be but 5.55 per cent. This is indeed surprising when we learn that farm loans average, with companies chiefly engaged in making such loans, but \$2.50 each, while the city and village loans of companies chiefly engaged in making such loans, average \$75,000 each, and yield an average interest return of 5.13 per cent."

"Lenders of money are beginning to realize that they should give consideration to how capital supplied by them is going to be used, whether to provide luxuries and encourage extravagance, or to improve values and increase income from the properties taken as security. The rule applies alike to city, village and farm properties, and I believe the time will soon come—if it has not already arrived—when there will be a better understanding and closer co-operation between borrowers and lenders, to the end that borrowers may be better enabled to meet their obligations at maturity, and lenders may be made to feel more secure in the investments they are making."

FOR DEFENSE IF SPECULATE AS

Senator Gallinger Tells President on What Grounds He Will Support National Defense Program.

MUST NOT BE FRAMED BY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Does Not Favor President's Scheme for Internal Taxation—Likes Income Tax Proposal.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Senate republicans will make no partisan fight on the administration national defense program if the measure is not framed by the democrats in caucus. Senator Gallinger, republican senate leader, told President Wilson yesterday he wanted the army and navy strengthened and will co-operate with the democrats. Later Senator Gallinger said the president had told him that he would not approve of the democratic caucus making the defense program a party measure.

"We will not agree to have the democrats frame the plan in caucus and then ask us to approve it," said Senator Gallinger.

The republican leader disagreed with President Wilson on his plans for a merchant marine and on forcing the money necessary for preparation. When the administration ship bill is introduced, Senator Gallinger said he would offer a substitute. The republicans, however, he added, favored the use of the merchant marine as a naval auxiliary.

Senator Gallinger advocates a bond issue and opposes President Wilson's program of internal taxation. He particularly objects to the tax on automobiles and gasoline. He said, however, that he favored the lowering of the income tax minimum and believed a tax on bank checks would not prove harmful. He opposed tax on iron and steel.

AUSTRIA IS ASKED TO DISAVOW ACT

Note Is Sent to Vienna Demanding Satisfaction in Case of Ancona.

Washington, Dec. 9.—The United States has sent to Austria-Hungary a note asking for a disavowal of the submarine attack upon the Italian liner Ancona, assurances that such an act will not be repeated, some degree of punishment for the commander of the submarine and reparation for the American lives lost.

Friendly but firm terms, it is said, characterize the document, which is understood to make a particular point of prompt assurances for the future safety of American lives. Austria-Hungary has never informed the United States whether the commanders of its submarines had been given instructions similar to those which the German government gave to its commanders after the Lusitania tragedy. It is understood that the note referred particularly to the charge that shells from the submarine killed or wounded some passengers on the Ancona after she had halted, and asked for an explanation on the point.

In dispatching the note, Secretary Lansing acted with the approval of Wilson. It is stated authoritatively that the document, which is described as being comparatively brief and decidedly vigorous in tone, was so drafted as to attempt a settlement of the controversy at once, without bringing on a series of communications such as followed the sinking of the Lusitania.

High officials are said to be of the opinion that the situation is one which calls for grave consideration, the state of affairs having become more complicated since the note was dispatched by reports of attacks upon American oil-carrying vessels in the Mediterranean, presumably by Austrian submarines.

Whereupon the Sun points out, not by way of expressing appreciation of what the president is trying to do for the business world, but by way of scoring a point that the road to successful business is not clear and firm "at least for the railroads and inter-nationally for other forms of corporate enterprise about which the president will speak a little later."

Republicans generally talk about the Sun has written. All this is in connection with the statement, which one frequently hears now, that the president is not as strong as he was last summer, when his foreign policies were generally applauded. The theory is that Mr. Wilson has lost ground with the women, the negro and the Germans and the Catholics, and that he has gained in any quarter to offset this interesting disaffection.

Steamer Reported Sunk

Now on Way to New York

London, Dec. 9.—The American oil steamer Communipaw reported sunk off the coast of Tripoli by a submarine, sailed from Alexandria, Egypt for New York on December 3, according to an announcement by Lloyd's.

SOME OF OPINION THAT PRESIDENT'S REFERENCE TO HY-PHENATED CITIZENS MAY BE BAD BLUNDER.

Washington, Dec. 9.—After sleeping on the matter, and scrutinizing the newspapers Washington spent a good part of yesterday talking about the president's message. What every man wanted to know of his neighbor was, what effect the message would be likely to have on the country, in a political way, and then what effect it would have on legislation in congress.

WILL COST THE PARTY SOME VOTES IN WEST

New York Sun Refers to President's Change of Position on Question of Preparedness.

Some of the president's political advisers knew what he was going to say about hyphenated citizens. They, and the president, have no doubt counted the cost in votes. What they probably did not foresee is, that this part of the message has evoked some resentment both in and out of congress among persons not of German extraction. Some members from the northwest, where there are many settlers from the Scandinavian countries, have some misgivings over the probable effect of the message upon people born under other flags, but now voters under the stars and stripes. Some democrats fear the president erred in speaking of men who "debate our politics" when denunciation should perhaps have been confined to those who have engaged in plots to interfere with the munitions plants and commerce.

Furthermore while the politics now favored by the president may be a good, if not necessary thing for the country, it is believed by no means certain that these changes will be of much service to him and his party, if he and his advisers have been influenced to any extent by political considerations. The republicans while in general terms approving the present attitude of the president on national defense, are declaring that the change of front must be attributed to the exigencies of democratic politics. The republicans take the same view of the matter and the considerate words which the president put in for the railroads. The belief has been obtained that the president will have the support of a number of big eastern newspapers which have manifested a feverish interest in the preparedness program, once the presidential campaign is under way.

This looks doubtful. In terms of thinly veiled irony the New York Sun yesterday told what the president stood for Tuesday in his message, and what he stood for a year ago. Last December the president pointed out the "road to ungrudging, unclouded success," every honorable man might walk that road with perfect confidence, because the chapter of legislative experiment in the matter of the regulation of private business had come to a successful termination. Tuesday the president thought it might be wise to appoint a commission of inquiry to ascertain by a thorough canvass of the whole question whether our laws as at present framed and administered are as serviceable as they might be in the solution of the problem of transportation. Whereupon the Sun points out, not by way of expressing appreciation of what the president is trying to do for the business world, but by way of scoring a point that the road to successful business is not clear and firm "at least for the railroads and inter-nationally for other forms of corporate enterprise about which the president will speak a little later."

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