

THOUSANDS HOMELESS, RESULT OF FIRE WHICH DESTROYED HOPEWELL

Scarcely a Building Remains
in Main Part of Munitions
Town of 25,000 People,
Started Year Ago.

LOSS CONSERVATIVELY
ESTIMATED AT MILLION

Little Insurance on Buildings
of Flimsy Construction—
Du Pont Plant, Though
Menaced, Was Saved.

Taking Relief Measures For People Of Hopewell

Richmond, Va., Dec. 10.—Governor Stuart this morning was awaiting word from L. B. Driver, a special representative sent to Hopewell to investigate in regard to the necessity of state relief measures for the people made destitute by the fire which destroyed the town.

Hopewell was such a mushroom settlement that it could not be incorporated as a village, town or city and the governor feels that Prince

George county should have state aid if it is required to care for the suddenly destitute thousands.

Acting Mayor Adams of Richmond called a joint session of the city council to meet at noon to consider relief measures. The Richmond chamber of commerce also is taking steps in this direction. A newspaper fund has been started. It is said that Petersburg and Norfolk are starting similar measures.

accomplish a German arrested in the Du Pont plant yesterday, with a bottle of nitro-glycerine in his possession.

The officials of the company refuse to discuss the arrest. It is learned, however, that the man was followed here some days ago from Wilmington, Del. He secured work in the plant, but had been under surveillance for several days. When arrested yesterday he was in the act of placing the explosive in one of the beater houses of the plant.

He is locked up in the jail at the plant.

Water Supply Short.
About 4 o'clock in the afternoon one-half of the town's water supply was cut off when poles which supported a portion of the high tension cable of the Du Pont company collapsed, snapping the wires which feed the current to the Apptomattox river electric pumping station. It was feared the remainder of the wires would go, but prompt efforts by workmen prevented.

Hopewell policemen, assisted by a special force of the power company, held the situation well in hand until the troops arrived. There was the greatest confusion and bewilderment, but few attempts at looting.

Every street in the place was swept. The Norfolk & Western railway station and the Southern Express company's office were among the first buildings to go. Among the well-known places of the community which are now marked only by ashes, are the International restaurant, the Dudley hotel, the Aristocratic hotel and the Blue Mouse hotel. Only remain ashes on all sides.

As the buildings were of cheap construction, their loss will not be of great value. But the various shops carried enormous stocks, some partially and some not at all insured, so that the practical loss will be that of merchandise.

Milliamen from Richmond and special guards from inside the Du Pont plant helped the Hopewell police in keeping order. Although many people were injured during the fire, only one death occurred. A negro caught looting is said to have been strung to a tree at the edge of the town.

The fire started in a restaurant, when an oil stove fell off the top of a box in the restaurant kitchen. A hotel caught next and soon the flames driven by a stiff wind were eating their way through banks, stores, hotels, and dwellings. The only church in the town was one of the first buildings to go.

Boy Is Hero.
An 11-year old boy was the hero of the fire. Twice he rushed into burning buildings and each time reappeared with a baby.

The explosive plant which during day and night at top speed is turning out war munitions for the allies, ceased operations long enough to make sure that none of the buildings of the plant would burn. Once when the flames came close to the plant buildings all hands were turned out to pour water on the fire, but a shift in the wind turned the flames in another direction and the factory employees started to work again.

There was little insurance. It is said on the buildings, which were jammed together—of wood and brick—in a space covering about 60 acres.

Martial Law.
Martial law was proclaimed last night with the arrival of six companies of militia, rushed from Richmond by order of Governor Stuart.

COMMISSION FROM RUSSIA NOW HERE

New York, Dec. 10.—Another purchasing and inspection commission, which seeks to place in this country orders for vast amounts of general supplies and war munitions, has arrived from Russia on board the Kristianafjord, of the Norwegian-American line. The commission, numbering sixty-one persons, includes metallurgical and mechanical engineers and army officers and they come prepared to stay in the United States for two years.

The duties of this commission, which will report at once to General A. W. Saponiokoff, head of the various Russian bodies now in this country, will be similar to that of the French commission which arrived here recently. Besides inspecting war munitions, railroad supplies and general mechanical equipment the members will endeavor to establish closer commercial relations between this country and Russia, and they will seek here rather than in Germany the enormous quantities of supplies of all sorts which will be needed to build up Russia at the close of the war.

Within a month or so, it was said, another commission of manufacturers, merchants, engineers and army officers will arrive in this country, swelling the number of purchasing and inspection agents to be stationed here to more than two hundred. Many of the commissioners who arrived Wednesday brought their wives and in some cases their household goods.

In charge of the party was Colonel Theodore Kolontaleff and Simeon K. Koschkin, metallurgical engineer for the Sormovo Steel and Iron Works, Ltd., at Nizny Novogorod and at Kholmno, Russia. The latter point is sixty miles south of Moscow. These plants are the greatest munition centers in Russia, they said, and they are employing 40,000 men, working twenty-four hours a day, turning out forty-eight per cent more artillery guns than ever before in their history.

One of the first duties of the engineers of the commission, Mr. Koschkin said, would be to inspect 4,000,000 rifles being manufactured for the Russian army by the Remington and the Savage arms companies. These rifles are to be used to equip the field force of 4,000,000 soldiers which will be ready to drive into Austria in the spring. Behind them will remain another force of 4,000,000, which will be ready by next summer.

Mr. Koschkin declared Russia is determined to win the war and that she rapidly is overcoming the terrible handicap of espionage which threatened her ruin at the beginning of the war.

The decision to build the ships in the government yards was reached at a conference between President Wilson and Secretary Daniels. All bids submitted by private firms exceeded the cost fixed by congress for construction of the vessels.

The secretary announced that he would ask congress to authorize the equipment of the navy yard at Philadelphia for battleship construction at a cost of approximately \$1,000,000 in order to be better prepared for the increased building program contemplated in the administration defense plans.

Keels of battleships Nos. 43 and 44 Mr. Daniels said, could be laid in August or September of next year. The battleship California, now building at the New York navy yard, will be off the ways by that time.

The Mare Island estimate included several hundred thousand dollars for enlarging stocks to take a 32,000 ton ship. Material for this work will be purchased immediately and contracts for the structural steel of both ships probably will be awarded today.

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN RINTELEN CASE

New Witnesses to Appear in
Investigation of Alleged German
Agent's Activities.

New York, Dec. 10.—Important and unexpected developments have occurred in the government's investigation into the alleged activities of Frans Von Rintelen and his associates to incite strikes in munition factories, it was learned from federal officials today.

After United States Attorney Marshall was suddenly summoned to Washington Wednesday. It was announced today that the grand jury which is investigating the case of Von Rintelen will probably not reconvene before next week and that a large number of new witnesses will appear before it.

It was stated at the federal building that "things are sizzling," but officials refused to give information as to the new turn the inquiry had taken.

Officials admitted that certain German and Austrian consuls might be mentioned in the report of the grand jury. It was also stated that one of the subjects which would be given chief attention by the grand jury was the strike at the General Electric company's plant at Schenectady last summer. Twelve thousand men were involved in a strike which lasted several weeks.

BRYAN WONT GO TO NEW YORK TO TESTIFY

Says His Deposition in Investigation
Might be Taken at
Florida Home.

Miami, Fla., Dec. 10.—William J. Bryan stated yesterday he will not appear in New York for the investigation of the sale by the United States of two warships to Greece. He said it was impossible for him to be there on Saturday—the time stipulated for him to give what information he may have; but that his deposition might be taken here.

MRS. SINCLAIR LOSES SUIT AND PAYS COSTS

One of the Suits She Recently
Filed Against Many South-
ern Newspapers.

Greenville, Miss., Dec. 10.—Mrs. Upson Sinclair's suit for \$10,000 against the Greenville Democrat for alleged libel has been dismissed in the County Circuit court at the plaintiff's cost, the case not being prosecuted.

This was one of the suits filed by Mrs. Sinclair against newspapers throughout the country in 1914, which printed an article stating that Mrs. Sinclair was arrested with her husband and several women for making a demonstration in front of the Rockefeller offices in New York.

LABOR ORGANIZATION.

London, Dec. 9.—The largest labor organization in the history of England, representing about 2,000,000 people was formed today. Its purpose is for offensive and defensive work in matters concerning wage and working conditions of labor.

THE LARGEST

Advertisement appearing in The Gazette-News today is that of H. L. FINKELSTEIN ON PAGE SEVEN ANNOUNCING CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

STATE BAPTIST MEETING ENDS

Convention Will Go to Eliza-
beth City Next Year—Reli-
gious Education Dis-
cussed at Last Night.

Charlotte, Dec. 10.—The Baptist state convention at 10 o'clock last night suddenly discovered that it had transacted all its business except the memorial service. So, instead of holding over until today for that it held it last night and then adjourned to meet in Elizabeth City in 1916.

"We have seen the brain of the convention for the past two days; we saw its heart this morning." That summing up of the day's events was made by a member who was speaking of the remarkable demonstration given to Rev. Dr. Livingston Johnson in connection with the discussion of state missions but the brain resumed its ascendancy tonight when the colleges absorbed the attention of the body.

Dr. R. T. Vann, secretary of education, made his first annual address in that capacity. Dr. Vann represents fourteen high schools and three colleges in the Baptist educational system. He declaimed any intention of antagonizing the state's educational system. On the contrary, he favors the state's schools provided that they be run economically, democratically and not politically; that they abstain from teaching religion, and fighting the denominational schools.

GERMAN DIPLOMAT DIED RECENTLY AT BERLIN

Was Responsible for Publica-
tion in London of Famous
"Kaiser Interview."

Berlin, Dec. 10.—Reinhold Kiehmst who retired from the German diplomatic service in 1911 with the title of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary after having served his country for several years as consul general at Athens, died here November 12. Minister Kiehmst's title to remembrance will rest chiefly on the part he took in the famous "Kaiser interview" in the Daily Telegraph of London, which was passed by him for publication after the emperor had submitted it to the then chancellor, Prince von Buelow, for an opinion as to its advisability for publication.

STATE MISSIONS AND COLLEGES MADE REPORT

Retiring Secretary Made Soul-
ful Address—Gave All of
Salary, Excepting Living
Expenses to Church.

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AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO NAMED

Eliseo Arredondo Appointed
By Carranza to Represent
His Government in the
United States.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The first step toward the resumption of full diplomatic relations between the United States and Mexico has been taken in the appointment of Eliseo Arredondo, General Carranza's confidential representative in Washington, as Mexican ambassador to the United States. The appointment of an American ambassador to Mexico—in all probability Henry P. Fletcher, at present ambassador to Chile—will be announced soon.

The resumption of diplomatic relations means that Mexico will soon take her long vacant place in the diplomatic councils of the world. For nearly three years, since the days of Madagasco, no government in Mexico has been recognized by the world powers.

MEANS RENEWAL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

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BULGARS AGAIN ARE ATTACKING ALLIED FORCES

Heavily Reinforced and Well
Supported With Artillery
Have Renewed Violent As-
sault on Macedonia.

London, Dec. 10.—The Bulgarians heavily reinforced and well supplied with artillery have renewed violently their attacks on the French and British forces in Macedonia. The assault now is approaching the climax of its intensity.

Although the pursuit of the Servians still continues, it is apparent from the proportions which the Macedonian conflict is assuming that the major part of the Bulgarian army is directing its attention to the allies. The outcome of the battle is awaited with great anxiety, as it will determine that the British or French troops have found it necessary to withdraw in great measure the immediate future of the entente movement in the Balkans.

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Mr. Wilson was met at his private car by a committee headed by Gifford Pinchot and William B. Tracy, president of the Columbus chamber of commerce. A large guard of regulars and of the Ohio national guard were on duty with the police to protect the president. The entire route between the station and the hotel where the president stayed was lined with national guardsmen and a troop of cavalry rode beside the president's automobile.

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At the hotel the president asked to meet all the members of the reception committee. They are introduced by Senator Pomeroy and Representative Brumbaugh of Ohio.

Mr. Wilson then decided to remain in his room to work on the addresses he was to deliver later during the day. In the crowd which packed the hotel lobby were many politicians who discussed campaign prospects for the coming campaign with Secretary Tamm.

The program included a luncheon by the chamber of commerce at noon in the Masonic temple, a reception in the afternoon at the state capital under the auspices of the Franklin county democratic campaign committee and an address at the county life meeting tonight of the Churches of Christ of America.

President Wilson was to leave Im-