

ARRANGEMENT MADE BY GOVERNMENT OF GREECE TO DEMOBILIZE FORCES

Decision Follows Energetic Representations Made to Premier Skouloudis by Ministers of Entente Powers.

TEUTONS REPORTED TO BE LEAVING LEMBERG

Latest News From Balkans Indicates That Allied Troops Are Still Retreating Before Superior Forces.

Petrograd, Dec. 11.—A report that the Austro-German forces are evacuating Lemberg was received this afternoon from Kiev.

Athens, Dec. 10, by way of Paris, Dec. 11.—The Greek government has made arrangements for the demobilization of the army. It is expected that a decision to that effect will be issued soon. The French minister had his second conference of the week with King Constantine. Subsequently the ministers of the entente powers called on Premier Skouloudis.

It was learned on good authority that energetic representations were made by the entente diplomats for the purpose of inducing the Greek government to hasten action for the requisite facilities demanded for the allies' troops at Saloniki. A decided move on the part of the Greek government is expected momentarily.

The interview given by King Constantine to the Associated Press has been republished and has created a sensation.

London, Dec. 10.—What seems to be an intimation that the troops of the entente powers are evacuating Serbian territory, if they have not already done so, is contained in a statement declared in a Reuter dispatch from Saloniki to have been issued by the French general staff on the Balkan front.

Berlin, Dec. 10.—According to information received in military quarters the Anglo-French expedition in the Balkans continues its retreat and now has entirely evacuated Serbian territory.

Still Falling Back. The latest news from the Balkans indicates that the allies are still falling back but without suffering the heavy losses sustained during the first days of the retreat. The British public received a shock in the form of a Saloniki dispatch stating that Greville had been occupied by two divisions of German troops. A later report, however, stated that this important town was not yet within the range of the invaders' guns.

Greville is on the Greek border near the Vardar river and dominates the railway north of Saloniki. The town first came into prominence during the present war as the headquarters of the typhus hospital of Dr. James P. Donnelly of New York, who died at Nish in February.

Diplomatic negotiations with Greece seem no nearer settlement, although the retreat of the allied forces makes some definite reply from Athens hourly more vital. In military circles it is considered of prime importance that Saloniki be retained as a base of future operations, even if the allies are forced to take refuge under the guns of their fleets.

It is generally conceded that the present force of the allies is inadequate to cope with the Bulgarians and Central powers, whose armies, according to a statement credited to Premier Radcaloff of Bulgaria now number one million men.

Senate Engages In Third Debate On War Affairs

Resolution of Hoke Smith Relating to British Interference With American Trade Is Amended to Extend to Bomb Plots and Submarine Attacks, by Senator Lodge.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Further action on the senate resolution demanding a congressional inquiry into British interference with American trade, with an amendment extending the scope of the inquiry to cover bomb plots and loss of American lives by submarine attacks on merchant vessels on the high seas, rested today with the foreign relations committee. The resolution which was proposed by Senator Hoke Smith yesterday, was in a sharp speech denouncing British orders in council and drew an amendment from Senator Lodge. In offering the amendment the Massachusetts senator said he thought it was of great importance for congress to vindicate our rights as neutrals, but far more important that the country should extend protection and security to American citizens.

The introduction of the resolution and amendment plunged the senate into its first debate of the session on the subject of the war and its relation to American affairs.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Senator Hoke Smith in a vigorous speech in senate yesterday called on congress to insist that Great Britain cease her interference with the commerce of neutral nations.

After quoting from the state department protest against the British government's order in council, in which the United States assumed the task of championing the integrity of neutral rights, he declared it was now up to congress to determine what value the United States might be to the integrity of neutral rights for which the United States had become champion.

Senator Smith emphatically denied the right of any belligerent nation to interfere with neutral commerce because the goods might eventually go to or come from an enemy country. "There is no custom or rule of international law," said Senator Smith, "which sustains such an excuse. Neutrals have a right to trade with belligerents. Belligerents can interfere with neutral trade only on account of the character of the goods or a legally conducted blockade. The fact that goods not subject to seizure on account of their contraband nature will ultimately reach the enemy of a belligerent, gives the belligerent no right to interfere with those goods."

Senator Smith declared the British government had not pretended to blockade the German ports on the Baltic against Norway, Sweden and Denmark, but that nevertheless the vessels carrying goods belonging to other neutrals if destined for German Baltic ports, were not permitted to reach the straits separating Denmark and Norway and Sweden.

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EACH PARTY IN CONGRESS WILL PLAY POLITICS

Republicans Will Use Opportunity to Dig Political Holes for Democratic Opponents.

PRESENT SESSION TO BE POLITICAL SESSION

Every Committee Report Will Be Considered in Light of Its Possible Effect on Presidential Campaign.

Gazette-News Bureau.
The Riggs Building,
Washington, D. C.

Washington, Dec. 11.—The present session of congress is to be a political session. The session has hardly gotten under way yet, but already the reasonably observant citizen has little doubt of the drift. Every important bill introduced and every committee report of consequence, will be brought forward with a view to its possible bearing upon the approaching presidential campaign. The democrats will be treated to a most pleasant surprise if Brother Mann does not pack the jury—that is, if he should in some unaccountable way fail to grasp the opportunity to so arrange the minority committee assignments as to insure the maximum embarrassment for the democrats.

With malice aforethought the republican leader will no doubt designate men for service on the committee who will give Mr. Wilson the most trouble in reporting his prohibition bill. The North Carolina member is very much in earnest about this, and there are a number of his party colleagues who may be flung right into the middle of an awful briar patch. It is just as confidently expected that the republicans will lose no opportunity to dig a hole for the democrats in the matter of our foreign relations, if that is found possible.

Many a member of the gulfed Old Guard is pined beyond expression over Mr. Wilson's conception of what constitutes "studious neutrality," because it has been a fine thing for Great Britain. At the same time this same Old Guard observes that Mr. Wilson has definitely said hood-lums to the German-American vote, and it is ready at all times to push along the process of alienation.

From the houseposts, and more especially from the White House top, it is being proclaimed that there is to be no politics in preparedness. It may be found humanly possible to keep politics out of the question, but nobody here believes it. In the first place, the impression is growing that the democratic majority will decline to go as far as the president desires. It was announced a few weeks ago that Chairman Hay of the military affairs committee, had come to Washington, and after a visit to the White House and the war department had become a convert to the administration program. As a matter of fact, Mr. Hay is trying to find a happy middle ground, acceptable to the majority of his colleagues.

The battleship idea in particular is gaining no ground. As a member of the senate said to The Gazette-News if there is a desire to protect American commerce and American rights, more service would today perform battleships under more normal conditions, when other nations were not being put to the supreme test in a terrible war. Therefore the situation is that while many democrats are disinclined to go to such lengths in appropriating money that is not in the treasury for the army and navy, the republicans have conceived it to be good politics to take the position that they feel constrained, to support the president, for the moment, because they believe that what he proposes is a step in the right direction. Later on their position will be that Mr. Wilson should be removed from the white house at the first moment possible, to the end that something worth while may be done in the way of national defense.

For the administration it is said that Mr. Wilson will have nothing to fear if preparedness is run into politics, as all the president will have to do will be to let Roosevelt and Bryan talk themselves out.

San Francisco is in the contest in earnest, Representative Julius Kahn, of California said today. "The republicans party is in worse shape in the west than in any other section of the country, and the republicans ought to come west and give us moral support and encouragement. San Francisco is anxious to have the convention. The guarantee fund is being brought east by a delegation that will arrive Monday. We have a hall with a capacity of 11,000 and our hotel accommodations are superb, as the exposition crowds can testify."

CHRISTMAS WILL BE OBSERVED BY CITY

Mayor J. E. Rankin Issues Proclamation Designating Wednesday, December 22, as Day of Observance—To Appoint Committee to Work Out Municipal Tree Details—Exercises to Be Held in Tabernacle at Night.

Asheville will again officially observe Christmas by a municipal celebration, Mayor J. E. Rankin having just issued a proclamation, in which he calls on all citizens of Asheville to gather at the tabernacle on Haywood street on Wednesday night, December 22, for a song and praise service.

The fact that the celebration will be held in the tabernacle this year will be good news to hundreds of Asheville, as heretofore the celebrations have been held on Pack square and as usual the weather at that season is such that the celebration can not last long, but with a building the size of the Chapman-Alexander tabernacle, it is believed that ample room will be provided for the people attending, as well as for the huge Christmas tree that will be erected there.

Details of the Christmas tree will be worked out by a committee, which is expected to be appointed next Monday. This committee will include many of the leading ladies and men of the city and they will hold a meeting soon after being appointed, at which the first work of arranging for the tree will be gone into.

The idea of having a municipal Christmas tree in Asheville was first developed here two years ago and since then two celebrations have been held on Pack square, with hundreds of people attending from all sections of the city. It is expected that the picture slides of famous Christmas paintings, which were used at the celebration here last year will be used at the exercises at the tabernacle this year.

A feature of the celebration will be the musical program to be carried out, this part of the celebration to be worked out by a special musical committee. Several talks will probably be made by leading citizens during the course of the celebration, and although the announcement of the

celebration has just been made, already there is every promise of the affair being a great success.

The Proclamation.
Mayor J. E. Rankin's proclamation, in full, follows:
The Christmas spirit is with us. While nations are grappling in the throes of a world-war, we should pause in the midst of desolation and death to celebrate the birth of Him who came "that we might have life and have it more abundantly."

Now, therefore, I, J. E. Rankin, mayor-commissioner of the city of Asheville, North Carolina, in accordance with the custom and sentiment of the citizens of our city, do issue this my proclamation, and I do set aside and designate
Wednesday evening the twenty-second of December
Nineteen hundred and fifteen for a Municipal observance of Christmas. And I do call upon all citizens to observe this celebration by assembling at the tabernacle in a song and praise service.

Let us at this time humbly and gratefully remember that we have been spared the horrors of the international conflict. Let us give thanks for the peace, the prosperity, the friendships, the innumerable blessings which have been ours during the past year. Let us dedicate ourselves to a new energy and a renewed community spirit. And here let us be impressed with the opportunity to provide for the fatherless and widowed, according to our individual prosperity and in the spirit of the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

To all men and women we would wish a happy Christmas—not perhaps in the childish sense, but in the realization of that greater peace and good will to men which came into the world with the Christ child.

This the eleventh day of December
Nineteen hundred fifteen.
(Signed) J. E. RANKIN.
Mayor-Commissioner.

TO DO PREVENTION WORK IN THE CITY

Buncombe Co. Welfare Ass'n Expects to Appoint "Brother" and "Sister."

The Buncombe County Welfare Association in session yesterday at Y. M. C. A. took important action looking toward the appointment of a "big brother," a "big sister" and a probation officer whose duties shall be the care of boys and girls who do not have parental influence around them and who are in danger of learning immoral habits.

Members of the association believe that there are many young boys and women in the city who need some one to look after their interests in this way, and the opinion was expressed that the work of prevention along the lines mentioned is one of the most important that can occupy the attention of the organization.

Plans for permanent organization were discussed and a committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws. The sub-committee is ready to make a report on the location of a house of correction for vagrant women and a meeting of the full committee will be called in the near future.

Agis J. Frazier Glenn, president of the association, presided and the attendance was large and enthusiastic.

WILL ASK FOR SAFE CONDUCT FOR ATTACHES

Secretary Lansing Will Immediately Take Steps to Get Von Papen and Boy-ed Safe Passage Home.

ACTING ON REQUEST OF EMPEROR WILLIAM

Attaches Personally Recalled By Kaiser—His Action Clears Up Situation Fraught With Difficulty.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Secretary Lansing will immediately ask Great Britain and France, through their embassies, for safe conduct to Germany from the United States for Captain Von Papen and Captain Boy-ed, German military and naval attaches respectively at Washington, pursuant to the request of Emperor William, who personally recalled the officers.

The withdrawal of the attaches had been requested of Germany by Secretary Lansing because of their alleged activity which had made them persona non grata to the American government.

Official announcement of the emperor's action was made by Secretary Lansing after he had received a communication from the German foreign office through Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador. Emperor William also requested safe conduct to the United States for the successes of Captain Von Papen and Captain Boy-ed, who will be appointed later. Action, however, will await the naming of their successors.

There is some speculation as to whether Great Britain and France would, in the event the two German attaches should leave this country, demand that they go under parole, pledged not to participate in the war. In some quarters it was thought that some such demand might be made. Officials of the German embassy, however, are said to believe that it will be proper to ask for safe conduct for the attaches without qualification, because the naming of their successors will remove two fighting officers from Germany.

Officials here were plainly gratified today over the outcome of a situation which apparently was fraught with serious difficulties. As a result Secretary Lansing is now free to again take up the negotiations with Germany for the settlement of the Lusitania controversy and the cases of other foreign diplomatic and consular officials.

It is expected that the case of Alexander Von Nuber, Austrian consul general at New York, will be one of the first to be acted upon.

While the reasons given by the United States for its request were accepted as satisfactory, the German government later may see fit to address a communication to the United States stating that it does not find itself able to agree that the attaches conducted themselves in a manner which justified them in being declared undesirable.

FEDERAL AGENTS ARE INVESTIGATING BIG FIRE

Washington, Dec. 11.—Chief Bielaski of the department of justice bureau of investigation has instructed his agents at Norfolk to proceed to Hopewell, Va., and make a thorough investigation of the fire which destroyed the town. He expects a report on the fire within a few days.

Federal agents investigating the fire in and adjacent to powder plants and munitions works have failed to find a basis for governmental prosecution and officials doubt if the Hopewell investigation will reveal anything on which federal action might be taken.

"RELATIONS STRAINED."
Washington, Dec. 11.—Diplomatic relations with Austria-Hungary are in danger of being broken off by the United States unless the urgent demands of the American note to Vienna for disavowal of the sinking of the steamer Ancona and for reparation are complied with.

Washington, Dec. 11.—The American note to the Austro-Hungarian government demanding a disavowal of the sinking of the Italian steamer Ancona and reparation for the American lives lost when the vessel was sunk by a submarine, reached the foreign office at Vienna yesterday. The next of the note will be given out by the state department for publication in morning papers of Monday.

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